House of Commons
Procedure Committee

Revision of Standing Orders

Sixth Report of Session 2014–15

Report, together with formal minutes

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Procedure Committee

The Procedure Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to consider the practice and procedure of the House in the conduct of public business, and to make recommendations.

Current membership

Mr Charles Walker MP (Conservative, Broxbourne) (Chair)
Jenny Chapman MP (Labour, Darlington)
Nic Dakin MP (Labour, Scunthorpe)
Thomas Docherty MP (Labour, Dunfermline and West Fife)
Yvonne Fovargue MP (Labour, Makerfield)
Sir Roger Gale MP (Conservative, North Thanet)
Mr James Gray MP (Conservative, North Wiltshire)
Tom Greatrex MP (Lab/Co-op, Rutherglen and Hamilton West)
John Hemming MP (Liberal Democrat, Birmingham Yardley)
Mr David Nuttall MP (Conservative, Bury North)
Jacob Rees-Mogg MP (Conservative, North East Somerset)
Martin Vickers MP (Conservative, Cleethorpes)

The following Members were also members of the Committee during the Parliament:

Rt Hon Sir Greg Knight MP (Conservative, Yorkshire East) (Chair until 6 September 2012)
Karen Bradley MP (Conservative, Staffordshire Moorlands)
Helen Goodman MP (Labour, Bishop Auckland)
Andrew Percy MP (Conservative, Brigg and Goole)
Bridget Phillipson MP (Labour, Houghton and Sunderland South)
Angela Smith MP (Labour, Penistone and Stocksbridge)
Sir Peter Soulsby MP (Labour, Leicester South)
Mike Wood MP (Labour, Batley and Spen)

Powers

The powers of the Committee are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 147. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk Home page - UK Parliament.

Publications

Committee reports are published on the Committee's website at Procedure Committee (Commons) - UK Parliament and by The Stationery Office by Order of the House.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Huw Yardley (Clerk), Danielle Nash (Second Clerk) and Jim Lawford (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

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Summary

The then Clerk of the House wrote to our Chair in July 2014 enclosing the results of a comprehensive review of the House’s standing orders which he had commissioned some months previously. The standing orders are frequently added to, repealed or amended. They have been changed more than 200 times between 2000 and the end of last Session, an average of more than 17 revisions a session—and each revision may contain several individual amendments. In the same period there have been 48 new standing orders and 10 repeals. This has had the incidental effect of making the numbering of the standing orders rather erratic, with frequent insertions between existing orders. But despite these continuing changes, the standing orders do not always reflect the developments in the actual practice of the House.

Following discussions with the Acting Clerk of the House and a number of his colleagues, we present in this report a package of revision proposals based on those submitted to us by the then Clerk in July 2014. The revisions aim primarily to remove anomalies and make the standing orders easier to use. We have striven to produce a set of proposals which will help the Government, which under the standing orders has the primary responsibility for setting the House’s business, do so in a way which is convenient both for it and for Members, without in any way affecting the ability of Members to hold the Government to account. In short, we have tried to improve the ability of all Members, whether of the Government or not, to use the House’s procedures effectively.

The revision proposals are contained in an annex to the report. We have used a colour-coding system to indicate the significance of the changes proposed: red for the most significant, yellow for those less so, and green for purely drafting changes. The annex also contains brief notes explaining all the changes. In the report below, we comment only on those changes where we consider that the notes in the annex do not provide sufficient explanation in themselves. A second annex contains a proposal for the complete renumbering of the standing orders following revision.
Revision of Standing Orders

Introduction

1. The then Clerk of the House wrote to our Chair in July 2014 enclosing the results of a comprehensive review of the House’s standing orders which he had commissioned some months previously. In his letter he invited us to consider the proposals for revision of the standing orders which he was putting forward, telling us

   The Standing Orders of the House of Commons codify much of the procedures and practices of the House but do not describe them. Some practices, such as the rule that members should not speak twice in the same debate derive from decisions of the Chair, and are considerably older than the Standing Orders, which are hardly mentioned in early editions of Erskine May. But the Standing Orders have developed into a mechanism for regulating parliamentary business and it is important that they are kept up to date.

   The Standing Orders are frequently added to, repealed or amended. They have been changed more than 200 times between 2000 and end of last Session, an average of more than 17 revisions a Session-and each revision may contain several individual amendments. In the same period there have been 48 new Standing Orders and 10 repeals. This has had the incidental effect of making the numbering of the Standing Orders rather erratic, with frequent insertions between existing Orders. But despite these continuing changes, the Standing Orders do not always reflect the developments in the actual practice of the House: for example, programme orders invariably disapply certain paragraphs of the Standing Orders.

   My first aim in commissioning the review was to remove anomalies and make the Standing Orders easier to use. […] I have also proposed that provisions that are not used should be repealed. But my concern for the rights of individual members and of minorities has meant that some provisions (such as Members rising in their places to ensure an emergency debate (SO No. 24) and petitions for present personal grievance (SO No. 155)) have been kept, even though they are very rarely used.1

2. We published the Clerk’s proposed revisions in September 2014.2 The Clerk had helpfully colour-coded his proposals, marking in red revisions that bring the standing orders into line with the House’s current practice but entail substantive changes to the provisions of the Standing Orders; in yellow less significant revisions bringing the standing orders into line with current practice and removing unused provisions; and in green purely drafting changes. We have retained that colour-coding in the proposals we publish in this report. Those very few proposals which go further than bringing the standing orders into line with current practice (such as the rationalisation of the provisions for elections and by-elections for Deputy Speakers and select committee chairs) are also marked in red.

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1 Letter from the Clerk of the House on the Revision of Standing Orders (published on Procedure Committee website).
2 http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/procedure-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/revision-of-standing-orders/
3. The proposals which we publish here contain a number of changes from those which were put to us by the then Clerk of the House. We held a very useful discussion with the Acting Clerk of the House and a number of his colleagues in December 2014, in the course of which we decided not to proceed with certain proposed changes—for example, the revisions to the resolutions on matters *sub judice* and on Questions to Ministers which are printed at the back of the volume of standing orders—and asked for more work to be done on others—for example, the Grand Committee standing orders. In the meantime Committee staff have also had very helpful discussions with Government officials, in particular Parliamentary Counsel, which have led to the refinement of certain other proposals—such as the revisions to Standing Orders No. 24 and No. 83I, and the recasting of Standing Order No. 123—and to our decision not to proceed with some others.

4. Previous standing order revision exercises have been undertaken at the behest of the Government. On the last occasion, in 1996, the then Leader of the House wrote to our predecessor Procedure Committee inviting it to take on the task.3 On the four earlier occasions since 1945 when such exercises have taken place,4 committees have been specially appointed by the House to do so, again on the initiative of the Government.

5. This time the initiative has not come through the Government but directly to us from the Clerk of the House. The need of the House to have as readily comprehensible, and as up to date, a volume of standing orders as possible has been at the centre of the exercise. Nonetheless we have recognised the Government’s close—and entirely legitimate—interest in the task. We have consequently striven to produce a set of proposals which will help the Government, which under the standing orders has the primary responsibility for setting the House’s business, do so in a way which is convenient both for it and for Members, without in any way affecting the ability of Members to hold the Government to account. In short, we have tried to improve the ability of all Members, whether of the Government or not, to use the House’s procedures effectively.

**How the proposals are set out, and our report**

6. Our revision proposals are contained in an annex to this report. As mentioned above, we have used a colour-coding system to indicate the significance of the changes proposed, red for the most significant, yellow for those less so, and green for purely drafting changes. The annex also contains brief notes explaining all the changes. In the report below, we comment only on those changes where we consider that the notes in the annex do not provide sufficient explanation in themselves.

**Renumbering**

7. A second annex contains a proposal for the complete renumbering of the standing orders following revision. The renumbering is mainly intended to fill the gaps created by the repeal of standing orders and remove the need for suffixes where new standing orders have been inserted between existing ones (we are currently up to No. 152K, for example). Only in the following cases have standing orders been moved out of their current sequence:

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3 **First Report of the Procedure Committee, Session 1996–97, Standing Orders Revision (HC 95), para 2.**
4 **Standing Orders Revision, para 1.**
- Standing Order No. 4 (Panel of Chairs) has been merged with Standing Order No. 85 (Chairs of general committees) and moved to the “Legislation Committees” (formerly “General Committees”) section;

- Standing Orders No. 25 (Periodic adjournments) and No. 123 (Sittings of Committees) have been moved to the “Sittings of the House” section;

- Standing Order No. 76 (Debate on bill reported from public bill committee) has been recast as “Second speeches” and moved to the “Rules of Debate” section; and

- The standing orders relating to individual select committees have been reordered to place them in alphabetical order, behind the standing order establishing the select committees relating to Government departments.

**Cross-references**

8. The changes set out below do not include all the changes to internal cross-references consequent on the proposed revisions and renumbering. These cross-references will be updated once changes have been agreed by the House and incorporated into the first full published version of the revised standing orders.

**Drafting changes**

9. The Clerk of the House proposed a number of drafting changes to apply throughout the standing orders. Those which remain from the Clerk’s original proposals are marked in green in the attached schedule of proposed revisions. These changes fall into a number of categories:

- removal of archaisms;

- changes for clarity;

- changes of timing convention—that is, the use of “am” or “pm” rather than “o’clock”; and

- amendments for gender-neutral language, such as “he or she” for “he”, when the pronoun does not refer to a holder of a specific office, or drafting to avoid the need to use a gendered pronoun.

**“Section” for “clause”**

10. Amongst the drafting changes proposed was that “clause”, wherever it appeared in the standing orders, was to be replaced by “section”. This would eliminate the one difference in terminology between a Bill and an Act. Clearly this change could not sensibly be made without a corresponding change being made by the House of Lords. We consulted our counterparts on the Lords Procedure Committee about whether that House would be
willing to make the change, but they indicated in response that they would not.\(^5\) We have therefore not included this proposal amongst the revisions put forward in this report.

**Change of name for “General Committees”**

11. We agree with the Clerk of the House’s proposal to change the naming conventions for so-called General Committees. The nomenclature “general committees” was adopted by the House following a proposal by the Modernisation Committee in 2006.\(^6\) The Modernisation Committee proposed the abolition of the previous term “standing committee” (because it was misleading, since most of the committees so named did not have a standing membership) and the introduction of the terms “public bill committee” and “delegated legislation committee”.

12. We consider that the term “general committees” has now served its purpose, as a replacement for the term “standing committees”, and that the time has come to abandon it. The effect of the proposed changes to Standing Order No. 84 will be to replace the term “general committees” with the more helpful “legislation committees”, except in the case of the Grand Committees and the Regional Affairs Committee (which may consider legislation but are chiefly debating committees). The changes to SO No. 84 make no substantive changes to procedure in any of these committees, which will continue as it was before the change, by virtue of the revised paragraph (2). Paragraph (2) will ensure that all the relevant provisions of what is now Standing Order No. 4 (Panel of Chairs) continue to apply to the Grand Committees and Regional Affairs Committee, as they do at present.

**Standing Orders No. 2A, No. 122B, No. 122C and No. 122D: Elections and by-elections for Deputy Speaker and select committee chairs**

13. Our report 2010 elections for positions in the House reviewed the experience of the elections to the posts of Deputy Speaker and select committee chairs which took place at the start of this Parliament, and made a number of recommendations for minor improvements.\(^7\) Since we reported, there have also been a number of by-elections for select committee chairs, and a by-election for a Deputy Speaker.

14. We have taken the opportunity of the review of the standing orders to reconsider some of the recommendations of that report in the light of the by-elections which have taken place. As a consequence we are recommending, and have included in the revision proposals, the following changes to the standing orders which govern the conduct of those elections:

- An amendment to paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 2A (Election of the Deputy Speakers) to make explicit that an election for a single vacant post of Deputy Speaker will be held only with candidates from the relevant side of the House

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\(^5\) Letter from Lord Sewel, Chair of Committees, dates 19 January 2015, to the Chair of the Committee (P81).


\(^7\) Fifth Report of Session 2010–12 (HC 1573).
(which was what happened in the case of the recent by-election for Deputy Speaker⁸);

- An amendment to Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs) to make it explicit that only the first 15 sponsors of a candidate for select committee chair will be counted and printed;⁹ and

- For the sake of consistency and predictability in the conduct of elections, amendments to Standing Orders No. 2A, No. 122B, No. 122C and No. 122D to provide for:
  - all ballots to be held on Wednesdays;
  - nominations to be handed in between 10 am and 5pm the previous Thursday; and
  - ballot timings to be 10am–4pm for all elections.

We consider that it is prudent to retain the discretion allowed in the existing standing orders for the Speaker to vary these timings, so that could be done if there were a compelling reason for diverging from them (for example, if at the start of a Parliament these provisions would result in the elections for Deputy Speakers and select committee chairs taking place on the same day).

15. We have also included in these proposals the addition to Standing Order No. 2A (Election of the Deputy Speakers) of provision for the Speaker to appoint up to three Members of the House to serve as temporary Deputy Speakers in the period between the beginning of the Parliament and the election of Deputy Speakers. In 2010 a Government motion was moved to allow such appointments to be made. We recommended this change in our report on the 2010 elections to House positions.¹⁰ The Government indicated in its response to that report that it agreed that this change would be helpful.¹¹

**Standing Order No. 9: Lapse of end-of-day adjournment motions at the moment of interruption**

16. Changes to paras (3) and (7) of Standing Order No. 9 are proposed to stop end-of-day adjournment debates lapsing at the moment of interruption. At present, when the end-of-day adjournment debate starts before the moment of interruption, the Member who is speaking must be interrupted at that time and the adjournment motion must be moved again. These changes will stop that from happening, so that the debate will continue uninterrupted until its conclusion. The changes also make explicit the current practice whereby the end of day adjournment motion may not be opposed.

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⁸ See Speaker’s Statement, HC Deb, 8 October 2013, col 58.
⁹ 2010 elections to positions in the House, para 40.
¹⁰ 2010 elections to positions in the House, para 30.
Standing Orders No. 9(4), No. 29, No. 36 and No. 37: Closure

17. Provision relating to the procedure for forcing closure of a debate, or the proposal of the question during proceedings on a bill (“Golding closure”) is at present contained in four separate standing orders. The revision proposals include changes to move the substance of SO No. 37 (Majority for closure or for proposal of question) into SOs No. 29 (Powers of chair to propose question, or Closure on proposal of question, as it is proposed to be renamed) and No. 36 (Closure of debate), and to delete paragraph (4) of SO No. 9 (Sittings of the House), which is otiose. No change in procedure is effected by any of these changes.

Standing Order No. 10: Sittings in Westminster Hall

18. The House agreed on 24 February 2015 to a revised form of Standing Order No. 10 following our reports on business in Westminster Hall.12 We have not therefore needed to include any revisions to that standing order in these proposals, although the proposals include two further changes (to Standing Orders No. 22D (Select committee statements) and No. 145 (Liaison Committee)) which are consequent on the revision of SO No. 10.

Standing Order No. 14 (Arrangement of public business)

19. Standing Order No. 14 currently contains not only the critical provision which dictates the way House business is now set (paragraph (1), “Save as provided in this order, government business shall have precedence at every sitting”), but provision for Opposition days, backbench business days and private Members’ bills (PMBs). It is proposed to split this very lengthy standing order into four separate orders, relating to Government business, Opposition business, backbench business and PMBs.

20. Although some further refinements are made in addition to this division into four separate standing orders, the division in itself effects no change to procedure. In particular, the existing provision in SO No. 14(7)(e) that no changes may be made to this standing order in backbench time is retained and applied to all four of the new standing orders (as well as to SO No. 152J (Backbench Business Committee)).

21. Under the existing SO No. 14(2)(c), Opposition days and backbench business days taken in the form of half days are either set down for, or interrupted at, the nominal “mid-point” of the day (seven o’clock, four o’clock or two o’clock). This provision is almost invariably set aside by means of a business motion tabled by the Government in advance of any such half day and replaced with provision providing for three hours’ debate which may continue (if necessary) after the moment of interruption (with Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) disapplied).13 We propose a change to sub-paragraph (2)(c) so as to provide for this to be the norm under the standing orders, without the need for a business motion. The Government will be able to decide at what point in the business the three hours’ debate takes place, as is the case in existing practice using business motions.

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13 See, for example, Business of the House motions agreed on 26 February 2015 to apply on 4 March 2015; on 17 November 2014 to apply on 19 November 2014; and 10 December 2012 to apply on 12 December 2012.
Standing Order No. 20 (Time for taking private business)

22. A similar change to that made to Standing Order No. 14(2)(c) is proposed for paragraphs (5) and (6) of SO No. 20. Instead of private business being set down by the Chairman of Ways and Means at the nominal mid-point of the day (seven o’clock, four o’clock or two o’clock), it would be set down “during the time of public business” and would be allocated three hours which could continue (if necessary) after the moment of interruption. Business set down by the Chairman of Ways and Means under these paragraphs would have to be taken on the day for which it is set down, as under existing provision, but it would be up to the Government at what point in the day’s business it came. This exactly mirrors current practice, provided for in each case by a business motion tabled by the Government and agreed by the House in advance.  

23. A corresponding change will need to be made to Standing Order 174 relating to private business, which mirrors its public business equivalent.

Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions)

24. A number of types of business are proposed to be added to the list of questions on which divisions are not deferred under SO No. 41A. They are:

- Carry-over motions and motions for instructions to committees on bills, when taken at the same sitting as the second reading of the bill concerned. These motions form part of the “package” of motions to be taken alongside second reading and so deferral of the division would be inappropriate. In current practice an exemption motion is routinely tabled to apply to such business.  

- Proceedings on Opposition and backbench half days and on opposed private business, which under the proposed changes to Standing Order No. 14 explained above could conclude after the moment of interruption.  

- Periodic adjournment motions.

Standing Orders No. 54 (Debate on estimates) and No. 55 (Questions on voting of estimates, &c.)

25. Like Opposition and backbench half days, Estimates half days are under SO No. 54 (3) either set down for or interrupted at the nominal mid-point of the day (seven, four or two o’clock). A similar change is proposed to that provision as to those proposed in respect of Opposition and backbench half days and opposed private business, namely that instead such business should be allocated three hours, which may if necessary continue after the moment of interruption. In effect such business will be guaranteed three hours’ debate, as it would be if set down for the mid-point of the day, but the Government will be able to

14 See, for example, business motions agreed on 9 September 2014 to apply that day; and on 10 December 2013 to apply that day.
15 See, for example, Orders Papers from 31 March 2014 and 1 April 2014.
16 See paras 19 to 22 above.
decide at what point in the business it is taken. Again, this mirrors existing practice, provided for by business motions. ①⑦

26. A consequential amendment is required to SO No. 55, so that the outstanding questions on estimates are not put until the conclusion of debate on an Estimates half day, in the event that such debate is still in progress at the moment of interruption. SO No. 55 is also proposed to be amended to ensure that debate on an Estimates day can be concluded before the questions on outstanding estimates are put following an emergency debate on that day under Standing Order No. 24.

**Standing Order No. 83C: Timing of evidence-taking sessions**

27. The proviso to paragraph (11) of Standing Order No. 83C (Programming sub-committees) permits the chair of a public bill committee which is hearing oral evidence to extend the hearing for fifteen minutes beyond the time set by the resolution of the programming sub-committee, as agreed to (with or without amendment) by the public bill committee itself (that is, the sittings motion). The effect of this provision is to allow flexibility in respect of the final set of witnesses heard by the committee, so that it is not necessary to cut them off in the middle of an exchange. The change proposed will extend that same flexibility (and courtesy) to earlier sets of witnesses. It will not extend the total amount of time allocated to evidence-taking, since any extra time allowed for earlier witnesses will not be available for later ones. No set of witnesses would need to receive any less time than the minimum provided for in the sittings motion.

**Standing Order No. 83I: Provision for programmed business in the event of the grant of an a emergency debate under Standing Order No. 24**

28. Standing Order No. 83I (Programme orders: supplementary provisions) is defective, since it has not been updated in line with changes to Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates) made in 2007. As a consequence, it is unclear what would happen to programmed business in the event of an emergency debate taking place on the day on which the application for such a debate was made. The proposed revised paragraph (4) is intended to replicate the intention of the existing provisions, but adapted to the new arrangements for the timing of emergency debates. Programmed business would be allocated the same amount of debating time as if the emergency debate had not taken place. Paragraph (5) is removed, since arrangements for the business on a day when an emergency debate takes place on a subsequent day can be made by means of a supplementary programme motion.

**Standing Order No. 88: Lunch breaks on Thursdays in public bill committees**

29. The Chairman of Ways and Means, on behalf of the Panel of Chairs, has drawn our attention to the inability of the chair of a public bill committee to prevent a Member from continuing to speak beyond 1.00 pm on a Thursday, when the sittings motion agreed by the committee requires it to sit again at 2.00 pm. The effect of the proviso to paragraph (1)

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①⑦ See, for example, business motion agreed 7 March 2005, to apply on 9 March 2005.
of Standing Order No. 88 (Meetings of general committees), which prevents legislation committees from sitting at certain times, is to provide for a lunch break on other days, because on those days lunch time coincides with the time for questions and statements in the Chamber. No such break is provided for on Thursdays, so although the sittings motion may envisage adjournment at 1.00 pm and resumption at 2.00 pm, if a Member has the floor at 1.00 pm and does not wish to relinquish it to enable the committee to be adjourned, there may be only a very short, or even no, break between the morning and afternoon sittings of a public bill committee on a Thursday.

30. The revision proposal is to insert a provision requiring a public bill committee to be adjourned at 1.00 pm, but not preventing it from sitting between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm, when questions and statements are highly unlikely to be taking place in the Chamber. That would require the chair of a public bill committee to adjourn the committee at 1.00 pm, but leave open the possibility of the committee sitting again at, say, 1.30 pm, if the Government wished (by means of a sittings motion) to provide for it to do so.

Standing Orders No. 93 to No. 116: Grand Committees

31. Standing Orders No. 93 to No. 116 make provision for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Grand Committees. There is considerable scope for rationalisation and revision of these standing orders, and the proposals originally submitted by the Clerk of the House would have overhauled them completely, making a number of changes.

32. Whilst we saw considerable merit in the overhaul of these standing orders proposed by the Clerk, we were concerned that now might not be the most appropriate time to make substantive changes to them. We therefore asked the Acting Clerk to revisit the proposed changes and to come back with a revised set of Grand Committee standing orders which made no substantive changes, but set out the existing provisions more rationally. Proposed new standing orders A to J are the result of that further work. They include drafting changes equivalent to those which have been made elsewhere in the standing orders (such as removal of archaisms and gender-neutral language), but they do not change any procedures or practice in the Grand Committees or in how they are set up and have business referred to them.

Standing Order No. 118: Debating time for instruments relating exclusively to Northern Ireland

33. Paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 118 (Delegated Legislation Committees) makes provision for the length of debate on a statutory instrument in a delegated legislation committee. It currently provides for two and a half hours’ debate on a statutory instrument relating exclusively to Northern Ireland, while all other instruments receive a maximum of an hour and a half’s debate. This provision for instruments relating exclusively to Northern Ireland dates back to the time prior to the Belfast Agreement and the subsequent establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly, when such instruments, made under the Northern Ireland Act 1974, often had the character of primary legislation. Now that the Assembly has been established, with its own legislative powers, there is no longer any justification for treating instruments relating exclusively to Northern Ireland any differently from other instruments, hence the proposed deletion of this provision from SO No. 118.
Standing Order No. 123: Power of committees to sit notwithstanding adjournment of the House

34. Standing Order No. 123 (Sittings of committees) gives committees power to sit at any time on any day on which the House sits. Almost all committees are separately given power to sit notwithstanding the adjournment of the House—that is, to meet during recesses. The proposed change to this standing order obviates the need to give each select committee the power to sit notwithstanding the adjournment of the House, as well as the provision for general committees contained in paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 88 (Meetings of general committees). The Committee of Selection, the Backbench Business Committee and the Standing Orders Committee are not given power to meet during recesses and so are excluded from the provisions of the revised SO No. 123 by paragraph (2) of the revised order.

Standing Order No. 137A: Agreement of draft reports by committees meeting concurrently

35. Paragraph (1)(c) of Standing Order No. 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees) currently gives select committees the power to meet concurrently with any other select committee for the purpose of considering a draft report, but makes no provision enabling committees meeting jointly formally to consider amendments to such a report. The proposed revision would do so. Any draft report then agreed by the committees meeting jointly would still need to be agreed separately by each committee before it could be published as a joint report under paragraph (2) of the standing order.

Standing Order No. 152J: power of the Backbench Business Committee to make reports to the House

36. Standing Order No. 152J (Backbench Business Committee) gives that committee the power to report to the House only its determinations of the business to be taken on allocated backbench business days: it does not have a general power to report such as is given to other select committees. The Committee has made “special reports” about the way it does its business, relying on the power given to all select committees by SO No. 133 “to make a special report of any matters which it may think fit to bring to the notice of the House”.\(^\text{18}\) The revision proposals avoid the necessity to require the Committee to use the power to make a “special” report—a power which is used in a rather different way by other select committees, whose special reports most often publish Government responses to their reports—by including a proposal to grant the Backbench Business Committee the general power to report (for example, if it wished to report to the House on its work in each Session). In the report of our review of the Backbench Business Committee in 2012, we recommended that the Backbench Business Committee be given the power to hear evidence from Members of Parliament in public (a change which was made following that report), but “agree[d] with the [Backbench Business] Committee’s Chair that the full panoply of powers to send for persons, papers and records is not necessary”.\(^\text{19}\) There is no

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proposal to extend the powers of the Committee to the taking of evidence, thereby avoiding any suggestion that it might turn itself into a committee of inquiry. Since the power to make a special report can be interpreted very widely by any committee, this change merely acknowledges that the Backbench Business Committee has found it helpful to make reports in the past and is likely to do so again. It does not, in any practical way, change or extend the powers of the Committee.
Annex 1: Proposed revisions of standing orders relating to public business

Election of the Speaker: Member presiding
1.—(1) Whenever it is necessary to proceed forthwith to the choice of a new Speaker in consequence of the Speaker having ceased for any reason to be a Member of this House, the chair shall be taken by that Member, present in the House and not being a Minister of the Crown, who has served for the longest period continuously as a Member of this House.

(2) Whenever it is necessary to proceed to the choice of a new Speaker in consequence of an intimation to Her Majesty by the Speaker of his or her wish to relinquish that office then the Speaker shall continue to take the chair and shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of Speaker until a new Speaker has been chosen, whereupon the Speaker shall leave the chair and shall cease to perform those duties and to exercise that authority and the Speaker Elect shall take the chair accordingly:
Provided that, if when this House proceeds to choose a new Speaker the unavoidable absence of the Speaker has been announced, the Deputy Speaker shall forthwith leave the chair and the chair shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this order.

(3) A Member taking the chair under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this order shall enjoy all those powers which may be exercised by the Speaker during proceedings under (2) thereof.

Addition for neutral gender in para (2).
Re-election of former Speaker.

1A.—(1) If at the commencement of a Parliament the Member who was Speaker at the dissolution of the previous Parliament is returned to the House, the Member presiding in accordance with Standing Order No. 1 (Election of the Speaker: Member presiding) shall, when the House meets to proceed with the choice of a Speaker, ascertain whether the former Speaker is willing to be chosen as Speaker, and, the former Speaker having submitted him or herself to the House, shall call upon a Member to move that he or she do take the Chair of this House as Speaker; and the question thereon shall be put forthwith.

(2) If the question is agreed to, the former Speaker shall then take the chair as Speaker-elect.

(3) If the question is negatived, the Member presiding shall forthwith adjourn the House to the following day at half-past two o’clock, and the House shall proceed in accordance with Standing Order No. 1B (Election of Speaker by secret ballot).

Drafting amendments and additions for neutral gender in para (1).

Drafting amendment in para (3).
Election of Speaker by secret ballot.

1B.—(1) If the question put in accordance with Standing Order No. 1A (Re-election of former Speaker) has been negatived, and on any other occasion when it is necessary to proceed with the choice of a new Speaker, the election shall be by secret ballot.

(2) Preparatory Arrangements for a ballot shall be made under the supervision of the Clerk of the House.

(3) (a) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House between half past nine o’clock and half past ten o’clock in the morning, i.e., 9.30 and 10.30 am, on the day on which the House is to elect a Speaker.

(b) Each nomination shall consist of a signed statement made by the candidate declaring his or her willingness to stand for election accompanied by the signatures of not fewer than twelve nor more than fifteen Members, of whom not fewer than three shall be Members elected to the House as members of any party other than that to which the candidate belongs or members of no party.

(bb) No Member shall sign more than one such statement and if any Member does so, his or her signature shall no longer be valid.

(c) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, lists of the candidates shall be placed in the Members’ lobby and published.

(4) If only one Member is nominated in accordance with paragraph (3) above, the Member presiding shall, when the House meets to elect a Speaker, invite the Member so nominated to submit himself or herself to the House, and shall then put forthwith the question that that Member do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

(5) Paragraphs (6) to (13) of this order shall apply if two or more Members are nominated in accordance with paragraph (3) above.

(6) When the House meets, the order in which candidates may address the House shall be determined by lot; the Member presiding shall then invite each candidate to address the House; and after all candidates have been given an opportunity to speak, the Member presiding shall direct the House to proceed to a ballot.

(7) The Member presiding may not vote in any ballot.

(8) (a) A ballot shall take place in the lobbies unless the Member presiding directs otherwise.

(b) Each Member intending to vote shall be provided with a ballot paper bearing the names of the candidates listed in alphabetical order.
(c) Each such Member may vote for only one candidate on the ballot paper.

(d) A ballot shall be declared closed after the expiration of half an hour and counting shall take place under arrangements made by the Clerk of the House.

(e) The Member presiding shall have discretion to vary the timings given in this order and power to give final directions on any matter of doubt arising from the conduct of a ballot or from an individual ballot paper.

(9) As soon as practicable after the votes have been counted the Member presiding shall announce to the House the numbers of votes cast for each candidate.

(10) If a candidate has received more than half the votes cast in a ballot, the Member presiding shall forthwith put the question that that Member do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

(11) If no candidate has received more than half the votes cast in a ballot the Member presiding shall direct the House to proceed forthwith to a further ballot to which paragraph (12) below shall apply.

(12) In any further ballot no new nominations may be received and the names of—

(a) the candidate who received the fewest votes in the previous ballot;

(b) any candidate who received less than five per cent. of the votes cast in the previous ballot; and

(c) any candidate who, within ten minutes of the announcement in the House of the result of the previous ballot, shall have notified the Member presiding of his or her intention to withdraw,

shall be removed from the ballot paper, except that where two or more candidates received the same number of votes, their names shall remain on the ballot paper unless paragraph (b) applies.

(13) If the effect of paragraph (12) above is to remove from the ballot paper the name of every candidate except one, the Member presiding shall forthwith put the question that that Member do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

(14) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Orders No. 9 (Sittings of the House) and No. 11 (Friday sittings), on any day on which the House meets to elect a Speaker, it shall meet at half past two o’clock 2.30 pm.

(b) No amendment may be offered to the question that a Member do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.
(c) If that question is agreed to, that Member shall thereupon take the chair as Speaker-elect.

(d) If that question is negatived, the Member presiding shall forthwith adjourn the House to the following day at half past two o’clock 2.30 pm, and the provisions of paragraph (3) above shall apply in respect of a fresh ballot.

Drafting amendments in paras (3)(a), (8)(d) and (14)(a) and (d).

Additions for neutral gender in paras (3)(b), (4) and (12)(c).
Deputy Chairmen

2. At the commencement of every Parliament, or from time to time, as necessity may arise, the House may appoint two Deputy Chairmen of Ways and Means, who shall be known respectively as the First and the Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means, and who shall be entitled to exercise all the powers vested in the Chairman of Ways and Means, including his powers as Deputy Speaker.

Deletion of SO, because it has been superseded by No. 2A.
Election of the Deputy Speakers.

2A.—(1) At the commencement of every Parliament, or from time to time, as necessity may arise, the Speaker shall notify the House of the arrangements to be made to elect a Chairman of Ways and Means and two Deputy Chairmen of Ways and Means, who shall be known respectively as the First and the Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means. The Deputy Chairmen shall be entitled to exercise all powers vested in the Chairman of Ways and Means, including his or her powers as Deputy Speaker.[Was para (9) of this SO.]

(2) The election shall be by secret ballot.

(3) Preparatory Arrangements for a ballot shall be made under the supervision of the Clerk of the House.

(4) (a) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on the Thursday before the House is to elect the Deputy Speakers.

(b) Each nomination shall consist of a brief signed statement made by the candidate declaring his or her willingness to stand for election accompanied by the signatures of not fewer than six nor more than 10 Members. No Member shall sign more than three such statements and if any Member does so, his or her signature shall no longer be valid.

(c) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, lists of the candidates and their sponsors and the statements shall be placed in the Members’ lobby and published.

(5) (a) A ballot shall take place between eleven o’clock and twelve o’clock on a Wednesday in a place appointed by the Speaker.

(b) Each Member intending to vote shall be provided with a ballot paper bearing the names of the candidates listed in alphabetical order.

(c) Each such Member may vote for as many or as few candidates on the ballot paper as he or she wishes, marking them in order of preference.

(d) Counting shall take place under arrangements made by the Clerk of the House.

(e) The ballot shall be counted under the single transferable vote system with constraints that of those elected:

(i) two candidates shall come from the opposite side of the House to that from which the Speaker was drawn, the first of which candidates will be Chairman of Ways and Means and the second, Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means;
(ii) one candidate shall come from the same side of the House as that from which the Speaker was drawn and shall be First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means; and

(iii) at least one man and at least one woman shall be elected across the four posts of Speaker and Deputy Speakers.

(f) The Speaker shall have discretion to vary the timings given in this order and power to give final directions on any matter of doubt arising from the conduct of a ballot or from an individual ballot paper.

(6) As soon as practicable after the votes have been counted the Speaker shall announce to the House the results of the ballot and direct the Clerk to enter the names of the elected Members in the Journal.

(7) Where a ballot is needed to elect to a single vacant post of Deputy Speaker as a result of a change in the Speaker, the election shall be held with candidates from only the relevant side of the House.

(8) Each Deputy Speaker elected under this order is so elected to serve until the end of the Parliament.

(9) The Deputy Chairmen shall be entitled to exercise all powers vested in the Chairman of Ways and Means, including his powers as Deputy Speaker. [Moved to end of para (1)]

(9) The Speaker may appoint up to three Members of the House to serve as temporary Deputy Speakers for a period which shall end when Deputy Speakers have been elected in accordance with this order; and a Member so appointed shall be entitled to exercise all the powers vested in the Chairman of Ways and Means for as long as he or she so serves.

Additions for neutral gender in paras (1) addition, (4)(b) and (5)(c).
Drafting amendment in paras (1).

Changes to timings of nominations (in para (4)(a)) and ballot (in para (5)(a)) for consistency with other House elections.

Clarification of para (7).

Former para (9) moved to end of para (1) for clarity.
Addition of new para (9) to prevent the need for a motion to appoint temporary Deputy Speakers at the start of each Parliament.
Deputy Speaker Duties and powers of Deputy Speakers

3.—(1) The Chairman of Ways and Means or a Deputy Chairman shall take the chair as Deputy Speaker when requested so to do by the Speaker, without any formal communication to the House.

(2) Whenever the House shall be informed by the Clerk at the Table of the unavoidable absence or the absence by leave of the House of the Speaker, or where paragraph (3) of this order applies, the Chairman of Ways and Means shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker in relation to all proceedings of this House, as Deputy Speaker, until the Speaker resumes the chair or, if he does not resume the chair during the course of the sitting, until the next meeting of the House, and so on from day to day, on the like information being given to the House, until the House shall otherwise order:

Provided that if the House shall adjourn for more than twenty-four hours the Chairman of Ways and Means shall continue to perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker, as Deputy Speaker, for twenty-four hours only after such adjournment.

(3) For the purpose of paragraph (2) of this order, the Speaker shall have leave of absence, if he thinks fit, on any Friday on which the House sits.

(4) Whenever the House has been informed by the Clerk at the Table of the unavoidable absence or the absence by leave of the House both of the Speaker, and of the Chairman of Ways and Means, the First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker in accordance with paragraph (2) of this order, and if the House should be so informed of the unavoidable absence or the absence by leave of the House of the First Deputy Chairmen also, the Second Deputy Chairman shall perform those duties and exercise that authority.

Title changed to reflect substance of SO.
Panel of Chairs

4.—(1) The Speaker shall nominate not fewer than ten Members to act as temporary chairs of committees when requested by the Chairman of Ways and Means.

(2) The Members nominated in accordance with the preceding paragraph together with the Chairman of Ways and Means and the Deputy Chairmen of Ways and Means shall constitute the Panel of Chairs.

(3) The chair or chairs of each legislation committee shall be appointed by the Speaker from the Panel of Chairs, provided that the Chairman of Ways and Means and the Deputy Chairmen of Ways and Means may take the chair of a legislation committee or subcommittee without having been so appointed.

(4) The Speaker may change the chairs so appointed from time to time.

(5) When more than one chair is appointed to a legislation committee any of the chairs so appointed may exercise the powers conferred by paragraphs (3) and (4) of Standing Order No. 89 (Procedure in general committees).

(6) The Panel of Chairs, of whom three shall be a quorum, shall have power to consider matters of procedure relating to legislation committees and to report its opinion on those matters to the House from time to time.

(7) Any member of a legislation committee may, at the request of the chair of the committee, act as chair for not more than a quarter of an hour on any one occasion. Provided that that member shall not exercise the powers conferred on the chair of a legislation committee by paragraphs (3) and (4) of Standing Order No. 89 (Procedure in legislation committees).

Addition of paras (3) to (7) from SO No. 85 for clarity and ease of reference

Addition of provision to allow Deputy Speakers to chair legislation committees and programming sub-committees without having been appointed by the Speaker to provide flexibility when appointed chairs are unexpectedly unavailable.

NOTE: SO to be moved to SOs on General Committees (now Legislation Committees)
**NO CHANGE TO:**

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<thead>
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<th>SO No.</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Affirmation in lieu of oath</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Time for taking the oath</td>
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Sittings of the House

9.—(1) Subject to the provisions of Standing Order No. 1B (Election of Speaker by secret ballot), the House shall meet on Mondays at half-past two o’clock, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at half-past eleven o’clock and on Thursdays at half-past nine o’clock, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11.30 am and on Thursdays at 9.30 am and will first proceed with unopposed private business, motions for unopposed returns and questions:

Provided that, when the House sits on a Tuesday or Wednesday which immediately follows a periodic adjournment of more than two days or is the first day of a Session, references to specific times in the Standing Orders of this House shall apply as if that day were a Monday.

(2) No motion for the adjournment of the House shall be made on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday until all the questions asked at the commencement of public business shall have been disposed of, and, save as provided in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates), No Member other than a Minister of the Crown may make such a motion for the adjournment of the House on any day before the orders of the day or notices of motions shall have been entered upon and started.

(3) At ten o’clock on Mondays, at seven o’clock on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and at five o’clock on Thursdays, if the House be in committee, the occupant of the chair shall leave the chair, and report progress and ask leave to sit again; and

(a) if the House be in committee, the occupant of the chair shall leave the chair, and report progress and ask leave to sit again; and

(b) if a motion has been made for the adjournment of the House or of the debate, or that the House has considered a specified matter, (unless that motion is included in a motion to be made after the interruption of business under paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 15 (Exempted business), or in committee that the occupant of the chair do report progress, or do leave the chair, every such motion shall lapse, except for a motion for the adjournment of the House moved by a Minister of the Crown for the purpose of ending the sitting under paragraph (5) of this Standing Order.

(4) On the interruption of business the closure may be claimed; and if moved, or if proceedings under Standing Order No. 36 (Closure of debate) be then in progress, the Speaker or the occupant of the chair shall not leave the chair until the questions consequent thereon and any further question, as provided in Standing Order No. 36 (Closure of debate), have been decided.

(5) An order of the day not disposed of before the termination of a sitting shall be deferred to such day being a day on which the House ordinarily sits as the Member in
charge of that order may appoint and any order of the day not reached before the termination of a sitting shall, unless the Member in charge of the order has given other instructions to the Clerk at the Table, stand over until the next sitting.

(6) (4) After the business under consideration at the moment of interruption has been disposed of, no opposed business shall be taken, save as provided in Standing Order No. 15 (Exempted business) otherwise provided for under any Standing Order or Order of the House.

(7) (5) The House shall not be adjourned except in pursuance of by a resolution or by the Speaker in pursuance of under Standing Order No. 46 (Power of the Speaker to adjourn House or suspend sitting):

Provided that, when a substantive motion for the adjournment of the House has been made motion for the adjournment of the House (other than during a debate) has been moved by a Minister of the Crown for the purpose of ending the sitting—

(a) the motion shall not be liable to interruption under paragraph (3) of this order but may be proceeded with for no more than half an hour after the moment of interruption or for half an hour after it has been made, whichever is the later;

(b) the motion may not be opposed;

(c) on the expiry of the time mentioned in sub-paragraph (a), the Speaker shall adjourn the House without putting any question.

Drafting amendments in paras (1), (3) and new para (5), and division of para (3) into sub-paras for ease of reading.

Deletion of obsolete provision and reference to SO No. 24 in para (2), because emergency debates are no longer motions for the adjournment.

Deletion of obsolete paras (4) and (5).

Clarification in para (1).

Changes to paras (3) and (7) to stop adjournment debates lapsing at moment of interruption.
Sittings in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 10)

NOTE: Revised version of this standing order considered by the House on 24 February.
11.—(1) Unless the House otherwise orders, the House shall not sit on any Friday other than those on which private Members’ bills have precedence. [from SO No. 12]

(2) At its rising on the Thursday before a Friday on which the House is not sitting the House shall stand adjourned till the following Monday without any question being put, unless it shall have resolved otherwise; and when it meets on Friday, shall, at its rising, stand adjourned until the following Monday without any question being put, [from SO No. 12] unless it shall have resolved otherwise.

(3) Unless the House shall have resolved to adjourn otherwise than from the previous Thursday to the following Monday, the Fridays on which the House does not sit shall be treated as sitting days for the purpose of calculating any period under any order of the House and for the purposes of paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 22 (Notices of questions, motions and amendments) and of Standing Order No. 64 (Notices of amendments, &c., to bills); and on such Fridays—

(a) notices of questions and of written statements may be given by Members to received by the Table Office, and

(b) notices of amendments to bills, new clauses and new schedules, and of amendments, notices relating to Lords amendments or messages, and notices of motions relating to proceedings on bills committed to a public bill committee or to a select committee, may be received by the Public Bill Office, between eleven o’clock and three o’clock 11.00 am and 3.00 pm. [from SO No. 12]

(4) The House, when it meets on Friday, shall meet on Fridays at half past nine o’clock 9.30 am, and will first proceed with unopposed private business, petitions, and motions for unopposed returns. [from SO No. 11]

(5) If a motion for a new writ is made on any day on which private Members’ bills have precedence, and is opposed, proceedings on it shall lapse. [from SO No. 19, amended]

(6) Standing Orders No. 9 (Sittings of the House) and No. 15 (Exempted business) shall apply to the sittings on Fridays with—

(a) the omission of paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 9; and

(b) the insertion of references to half past two o’clock 2.30 pm as the moment of interruption. [from SO No. 11]

(7) At eleven o’clock 11.00 am the Speaker may interrupt the proceedings in order to permit urgent questions to be asked which are in his opinion of an urgent character and relate either to matters of public importance or to the arrangement of business,
statements to be made by Ministers, or personal explanations to be made by Members, and if the House is in committee at eleven o’clock, on an occasion when the Speaker’s intention to permit such questions, statements or explanations has been made known, the occupant of the chair shall leave the chair without putting any question, and report that the committee has made progress and ask leave to sit again that day, and on conclusion of after the questions, statements or explanations, the House shall again resolve itself into committee without Question put. [from SO No. 11, two paragraphs combined, with drafting amendments]

Creation of new SO from elements of three existing SOs

Drafting amendments in paras (3), (4) and (7).

Amendment of para (4) to bring in line with existing practice and remove clash with SO No. 154(1) (Time and manner of presenting petitions)

New para (5) with text (amended) of SO No 19.

Addition to paras (3) and (7) to reflect existing practice.
Friday sittings

11.—(1) Subject to Standing Order No. 12 (House not to sit on certain Fridays), the House shall meet on Fridays at half past nine o’clock 9.30 am, and will first proceed with unopposed private business, petitions, and motions for unopposed returns.

(2) Standing Orders No. 9 (Sittings of the House) and No. 15 (Exempted business) shall apply to the sittings on Fridays with—

(a) the omission of paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 9; and

(b) the insertion of references to half past two o’clock 2.30 pm as the moment of interruption; and

(c) the substitution of reference to half past three o’clock for reference to eleven o’clock in relation to proceedings on nomination of members of departmental select committees.

(3) In the application of Standing Order No. 17 (Delegated legislation (negative procedure)) to the sittings on Fridays there shall be substituted references to four o’clock for references to half past eleven o’clock.

(4) At eleven o’clock 11.00 am the Speaker may interrupt the proceedings in order to permit questions to be asked which are in his opinion of an urgent character and relate either to matters of public importance or to the arrangement of business, statements to be made by Ministers, or personal explanations to be made by Members.

(5) If the House is in committee at eleven o’clock 11.00 am, on an occasion when the Speaker’s intention to permit such questions, statements or explanations has been made known, the occupant of the chair shall leave the chair without putting any question, and report that the committee have made progress and ask leave to sit again that day, and on conclusion of the questions, statements or explanations, the House shall again resolve itself into committee without Question put.

(6) The House, when it meets on Friday, shall, at its rising, stand adjourned until the following Monday without any question being put.

Changes indicated to text taken into new SO. Deletions reflecting current practice (ie text not taken across) indicated by double strikethrough.
House not to sit on certain Fridays

12.—(1) Unless the House otherwise orders, the House shall not sit on any Friday other than those on which private Members’ bills have precedence.

(2) At its rising on the Thursday before a Friday on which the House is not sitting the House shall stand adjourned till the following Monday without any question being put, unless it shall have resolved otherwise.

(3) Unless the House shall have resolved to adjourn otherwise than from the previous Thursday to the following Monday, the Fridays on which the House does not sit shall be treated as sitting days for the purpose of calculating any period under any order of the House and for the purposes of paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 22 (Notices of questions, motions and amendments) and of Standing Order No. 64 (Notices of amendments, &c., to bills); and on such Fridays—

(a) notices of questions may be given by Members to the Table Office, and

(b) notices of amendments to bills, new clauses and new schedules and of amendments to Lords amendments, and notices of motions relating to proceedings on bills committed to a public bill committee or to a select committee, may be received by the Public Bill Office,

between eleven o’clock and three o’clock 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

Changes indicated to text taken into new SO, consisting of addition to reflect current practice and drafting amendment in para (3).
Earlier meeting of House in certain circumstances.
13.—(1) Whenever the House stands adjourned and it is represented to the Speaker by Her Majesty’s Ministers that the public interest requires that the House should meet at a time earlier than that to which the House stands adjourned, the Speaker, if he is satisfied that the public interest does so require, may give notice that, being so satisfied, he appoints a time for the House to meet, and the House shall accordingly meet at the time stated in such notice.

(2) The government business to be transacted on the day on which the House shall so meet shall, subject to the publication of notice thereof in the order paper to be circulated on the day on which the House shall so meet, be such as the government may appoint, but subject as aforesaid the House shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to the day on which it shall so meet, and any government order of the day and government notices of motions that may stand on the order book for any day shall be appointed for the day on which the House shall so meet.

(3) In the event of the Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Chairman of Ways and Means, or either Deputy Chairman, shall act in his stead for the purposes of this order.

Deletion of archaism and otiose provision in para (2) (because sufficient authority to advance the day appointed for any stage of a Government bill, if necessary, is given by the first part of this paragraph).
DIVISION OF SO NO. 14 INTO FOUR SEPARATE SOS FOR CLARITY

Government business
AA.—(1) Save as provided in this order, government business shall have precedence at every sitting. Government business shall have precedence at every sitting, save as provided for in Standing Orders No. BB (Opposition days), No. CC (Backbench business) and No. DD (Private Members’ Fridays).

Opposition days
BB.—(1) Twenty days shall be allotted in each session for proceedings on opposition business, seventeen of which shall be at the disposal of the Leader of the Opposition and three of which shall be at the disposal of the leader of the second largest opposition party; and matters selected on those days shall have precedence over government business provided that—

(a) two Friday sittings shall be deemed equivalent to a single sitting on any other day;

(b) on any day other than a Friday, not more than two of the days at the disposal of the Leader of the Opposition may be taken in the form of four half days, and one of the days at the disposal of the leader of the second largest opposition party may be taken in the form of two half days; and

(b) on any such half day, proceedings under this paragraph shall last not more than three hours and, at the end of that time, the motion, unless otherwise disposed of, shall lapse; and proceedings under this sub-paragraph may be proceeded with, though opposed, after the moment of interruption, shall either—

(i) lapse at seven o’clock on Monday, four o’clock on Tuesday or Wednesday or two o’clock on Thursday if not previously concluded, or

(ii) be set-down for consideration at the hour specified in sub-paragraph (i) above and, except on days on which private business has been set-down for consideration under the provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 20 (Time for taking private business), shall be entered upon at that time:

Provided that on days on which business stands over until seven o’clock, four o’clock or two o’clock under the provisions of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates), proceedings under this sub-paragraph shall not be entered upon until such business has been disposed of, and may then be proceeded with for three hours, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 9 (Sittings of the House).

(2) For the purposes of this order the ‘second largest opposition party’ shall be that party, of those not represented in Her Majesty’s Government, which has the second largest number of Members elected to the House as members of that party.
**Backbench business**

CC—(1) Thirty-five days or its equivalent shall be allotted in each session for proceedings in the House and in Westminster Hall on backbench business of which at least twenty-seven **days or its equivalent** shall be allotted for proceedings in the House; the business determined by the Backbench Business Committee shall have precedence over government business (other than any order of the day or notice of motion on which the question is to be put forthwith) on those days; and the provisions of paragraph (2)(c) of this Standing Order paragraph (2)(b) of Standing Order No. BB (Opposition days) shall apply to any of those days taken in the House in the form of half-days.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) above, a Thursday sitting in Westminster Hall at which the business is appointed by the Backbench Business Committee shall count as one half day and a topical debate shall count as one quarter-day.

(4) Backbench business comprises all proceedings in the Chamber relating to any motion or order of the day except:

(a) government business, that is proceedings relating to government bills, financial business, proceedings under any Act of Parliament, or relating to European Union Documents, or any other motion in the name of a Minister of the Crown;

(b) opposition business under paragraph (2) above Standing Order No. BB (Opposition days);

(c) motions for the adjournment of the House under paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 9 (Sittings of the House), private Members’ motions for leave to bring in bills under Standing Order No. 23 (Motions for leave to bring in bills and nomination of select committees at the start of public business) and private Members’ bills under paragraphs (9) to (14) below Standing Order No. DD (Private Members’ Fridays);

(d) proceedings relating to private business;

(e) any motion to amend this order or Standing Orders AA, BB, DD or No. 152J (Backbench Business Committee);

(f) business set down at the direction of, or given precedence by, the Speaker.

(5) The proceedings to be taken as backbench business shall be determined by the Backbench Business Committee, as set out in Standing Order No. 152J (Backbench Business Committee).
**Private Members’ bills**

DD—(1) Private Members’ bills shall have precedence over government business on thirteen Fridays in each session to be appointed by the House.

(2) On and after the eighth Friday on which private Members’ bills have precedence, such bills shall be arranged on the order paper in the following order—

consideration of Lords amendments, third readings, **proceedings on** consideration of reports not already **entered upon** started, adjourned proceedings on consideration, bills in progress in committee, bills appointed for committee, and second readings.

(3) The ballot for private Members’ bills shall be held on the second sitting Thursday on which the House shall sit during of the session under arrangements to be made by the Speaker, and each bill shall be presented by the Member who has given notice of presentation or by another Member named by him or her in writing to the Clerks at the **Table Public Bill Office**, at the commencement **start** of public business on the fifth **sitting** Wednesday on which the House shall sit during the session.

(4) Until after the fifth **sitting** Wednesday on which the House shall sit during of the session, no private Member shall—

(a) give notice of a motion for leave to bring in a bill under Standing Order No. 23 (Motions for leave to bring in bills and nomination of select committees at commencement the start of public business); or

(b) give notice for presenting a bill under Standing Order No. 57 (Presentation and first reading); or

(c) inform the Clerks at the **Table Public Bill Office** of his or her intention to take charge of a bill which has been brought from the Lords.

(5) A private Member’s bill to which the provisions of paragraphs (2) to (6) of Standing Order No. 97 (Scottish Grand Committee (bills in relation to their principle)) have applied, and which has been considered by a Scottish public bill committee, shall not be set down for consideration on report so as to have precedence over any private Member’s bill so set down which was read a second time on a day preceding that on which the bill was reported from the Scottish Grand Committee under paragraph (3) of that Standing Order.

(6) An order appointing a day for the second reading of a private Member’s bill shall lapse at the rising of the House on the preceding sitting day if at that time the bill has not been **printed and delivered to the Vote Office published**, and the House shall make no further order appointing a day for the second reading of the bill until it has been **printed published**.
Division into four separate SOs for clarity.

Amendments and deletions in BB(1) to reflect existing practice (and drafting amendments).

Amendment to BB(2) to remove uncertainty about what 'second largest opposition party' means elsewhere.

Addition in BB(4) to reflect practice.

Addition in CC(1) to reflect existing practice of half-days.

Para (2) of CC (formerly para (5) of SO No. 14) removed by order of the House 24 February 2015, consequent on agreement of Petitions Committee Standing Order.

Additions for neutral gender and drafting amendment in paras DD (3) and (4).

Deletion of obsolete provisions in DD(5).

Amendment in DD(6) to reflect move from printing to publishing.
Exempted business

15.—(1) The following business may be proceeded with at any hour though opposed, shall not, save for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to paragraph (2) of this order or paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions), be interrupted at the moment of interruption, and, if under discussion when business is postponed under the provisions of any standing order, may be resumed, though opposed, after the interruption of business:

(a) proceedings on a bill brought in upon a ways and means resolution;

(b) proceedings in pursuance of any standing order of this House which provides that proceedings, though opposed, may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business:

(c) proceedings on a programme motion; or

(d) proceedings subject to a programme order.

(2) If a notice of motion in the name of a Minister of the Crown stands upon the order paper at the commencement of public business to the effect that any specified business may be proceeded with at this day’s sitting though opposed—

(a) until any hour;

(b) until a specified hour;

(bb) until the end of a specified period after it has been started; or

(c) until either a specified hour or the end of a specified period after it has been entered upon, whichever is the later;

or in a form combining any or all of these effects in respect of different items of business, the motion shall stand over and may not be made until after the interruption of business and shall then be proceeded with, though opposed, in accordance with the
following paragraphs of this order; provided that on any day on which the Speaker is
directed to put questions at the moment of interruption pursuant to paragraph (6) of
Standing Order No. 54 (Consideration of estimates), any such motion shall stand over
until those questions have been decided.

(3) If the business interrupted is included in the business specified in the motion or in
paragraph (1) of this order, the Speaker shall, immediately after the interruption of
business, or if the House has been in committee, before any day is named for the House
again to resolve itself into that committee, call upon the Minister to move his the
motion and the question thereon on it shall be put forthwith, and after that question has
been decided the consideration of the business interrupted shall be resumed if such
business is included in the it is business specified in paragraph (1) of this order or if the
question be resolved in the affirmative is agreed to.

(4) If the business interrupted is not included in the business specified in the motion or
in paragraph (1) of this order, the Speaker shall call upon the Minister to move his or
her motion at the conclusion end of any proceedings arising on the interruption of
business under the provisions of Standing Order No. 9 (Sittings of the House) but
before the resumption of any proceedings postponed under Standing Order No. 20
(Time for taking private business) or Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates).

(5) If a motion made under either of the two preceding paragraphs be is agreed to, the
business so specified shall be proceeded with as if it were included in the business
specified in paragraph (1) of this order, save that—

(a) business which may be proceeded with until a specified hour may not, if
opposed, be entered upon started or resumed after that hour and the
proceedings thereon on it if not previously concluded ended shall be interrupted
at that hour;

(b) when proceedings on such business have been postponed under the
provisions of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates), such business may be
proceeded with after the specified hour for a further period of time equal to the
duration of the proceedings upon the motion under the said Standing Order No.
24; and

(c) the proceedings upon business which may be proceeded with until either a
specified hour or the end of a specified period after it has been entered upon,
whichever is the later, shall if not previously concluded be interrupted at that
hour or at the end of that period, as the case may be business which may
continue under sub-paragraphs (bb) or (c) of paragraph (2) of this order shall if
not previously ended be interrupted when the time specified has expired.

(6) Not more than one motion under paragraph (2) of this order may be made at any
one sitting and after any business proceeding under the provisions of this order is
disposed of after the moment of interruption, the remaining business of the sitting shall be dealt with according to the provisions of Standing Order No. 9 (Sittings of the House) applicable to business taken after the moment of interruption.

- Drafting amendments in paras (1), (1)(b), (3), (4), (5) and (5)(a), (b) and (c).
- Resolution of drafting defect relating to deferred division procedure in para (1).
- Move of para (1)(c) to SO No. 121 for clarity.
- Addition to para (1) to end need for business motions at moment of interruption, with corresponding deletions of No. 83A(13) and 83I(2).
- Addition to para (2) for clarity and to reflect existing practice.
- Additions for neutral gender to paras (3) and (4).
- Deletion of reference to Standing Order No. 20 in para (4) because of change in that SO to allocate a protected three hours for opposed private business set down by the Chairman of Ways and Means.
Proceedings under an Act or on European Union documents.
16.—(1) The Speaker shall put the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings under any Act of Parliament or on European Union documents (as defined in Standing Order No. 143 (European Scrutiny Committee)) not later than one and a half hours after the commencement of such proceedings, subject to the provisions of Standing Order No. 17 (Delegated legislation (negative procedure)).

(2) Business to which this order applies may be proceeded with at any hour, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

Drafting amendments.
Delegated legislation (negative procedure).

17.—(1) No proceedings on a motion to which this order applies shall be entered upon at or after half-past eleven o’clock on Monday, half-past eight o’clock on Tuesday or Wednesday or half-past six o’clock on Thursday.

(2) If such a motion is under consideration at that hour, the Speaker shall forthwith put any question which may be requisite to bring to a decision any question already proposed from the chair:

Provided that, if he shall be of opinion that—

(a) owing to the lateness of the hour at which consideration of the motion was entered upon, or

(b) because of the importance of the subject matter of the motion, the time for debate has not been adequate, he shall interrupt the business and the debate shall stand adjourned till the next sitting (other than a Friday).

(3) A debate which has been adjourned under paragraph (2) of this order shall not be resumed less than half an hour before the time specified in paragraph (1) of this order, but shall stand further adjourned till the next sitting (other than a Friday), and the foregoing provisions of this paragraph shall apply to any debate which has been further adjourned under this paragraph as if the further adjournment were an adjournment under paragraph (2) of the order.

(4) This order applies to proceedings under an Act of Parliament on—

(a) any motion for an humble address to Her Majesty praying that a statutory instrument be annulled, and any motion that a draft of an Order in Council be not submitted to Her Majesty in Council, or that a statutory instrument be not made,

(b) any motion that, or for an humble address to Her Majesty praying that, any other document be annulled, or cease to be in force, or be not made or be disapproved, or words to that effect.

Repeal SO because unnecessary: last paragraph covered by SO No. 16.
Consideration of draft legislative reform orders etc.

18.—(1) If the Regulatory Reform Committee has recommended under paragraph (4) of Standing Order No. 141 (Regulatory Reform Committee) or paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 142 (Localism Act 2011, etc.: scrutiny of certain orders and draft orders) that a draft order subject to the affirmative procedure should be approved, or has recommended under paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 141 (Regulatory Reform Committee) or paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 142 (Localism Act 2011, etc.: scrutiny of certain orders and draft orders) that a draft order should be approved, and a motion is made by a Minister of the Crown to that effect, the question thereon shall—

(a) if the committee’s recommendation was agreed without a division, be put forthwith; and

(b) if the committee’s recommendation was agreed after a division, be put not later than one and a half hours after the commencement of proceedings on the motion.

(2) If the committee has recommended under paragraph (4) of Standing Order No. 141 (Regulatory Reform Committee) or paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 142 (Localism Act 2011, etc.: scrutiny of certain orders and draft orders) that a draft order subject to the affirmative procedure be not approved, or has recommended under paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 141 (Regulatory Reform Committee) or paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 142 (Localism Act 2011, etc.: scrutiny of certain orders and draft orders) that a draft order be not approved, no motion to approve the draft order shall be made unless the House has previously resolved to disagree with the committee’s report; the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion for such a resolution shall be put not later than three hours after their commencement; and the question on any motion thereafter made by a Minister of the Crown that the draft order be approved shall be put forthwith.

(3) If the committee has recommended under paragraph (4) of Standing Order No. 141 (Regulatory Reform Committee) or paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 142 (Localism Act 2011, etc.: scrutiny of certain orders and draft orders) that a draft order subject to the negative resolution procedure should not be made (and that the recommendation is not intended to operate section 16(4) of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006), that recommendation shall be deemed to constitute notice of a motion under sub-paragraph (4)(a) of Standing Order No. 118 (Delegated Legislation Committees).

(4) Motions under paragraphs (1) or (2) of this order may be proceeded with, though opposed, until any hour.

Drafting amendments in paras (1)(b) and (2).
New writs.

19. If a motion to the effect that the Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new writ for the electing of a Member is proposed to be made or is made after prayers on any day on which private Members’ bills have precedence, and is opposed, proceedings thereon shall lapse.

Moved to new SO No. 12 on Friday sittings and drafting amendments made.
Time for taking private business

20.—(1) On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays the time for private business shall end not later than a quarter of an hour after the House sits and business entered upon started and not disposed of or not reached at that hour shall be deferred to such time as the Chairman of Ways and Means may appoint. Business not reached shall stand over to the next sitting, or in the case of opposed business until the next sitting other than a Friday.

(2) During the time of private business, opposed business shall not be proceeded with but shall be deferred to such time, other than a Friday, as the Chairman of Ways and Means may appoint.

(3) Opposed business shall include any proceedings on a private bill or a confirming bill which have been deferred under paragraph (2) of this order, so long as a notice of an amendment stands upon the order paper in the form of a notice of motion (other than a notice of motion in the name of the Chairman of Ways and Means) on second reading, consideration or third reading of such a bill:

Provided that no such notice of motion shall stand on the order paper for more than seven days unless renewed.

(4) No opposed private business shall be taken on a Friday.

(5) Business deferred under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this order shall be considered at the time of private business on the day appointed unless the Chairman of Ways and Means directs that such business shall be set down for seven o’clock on any specified Monday, four o’clock on any specified Tuesday or Wednesday or two o’clock on any specified Thursday, 7.00 pm on any specified Monday, 4.00 pm on any specified Tuesday or Wednesday or 2.00 pm on any specified Thursday during the time of public business on a specified day, and business so set down (including any motion contingent directly or otherwise upon any item of such business) shall be taken in such order as the Chairman of Ways and Means may determine:

Provided that business so set down shall be distributed as nearly as may be proportionately between the sittings on which government business has precedence and other sittings.

(6) On any day specified under paragraph (5) of this order, at seven o’clock, four o’clock or two o’clock, 7.00 pm, 4.00 pm or 2.00 pm or as soon thereafter as any motion for the adjournment of the House under Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates) has been disposed of, the business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means shall be entered upon started and may be proceeded with, though opposed, for three hours, after which proceedings shall be interrupted subject to the provisions of Standing Order No. 9 (Sittings of the House).
Drafting amendments in paras (1) and (3).

Addition to reflect current practice in para (4).

Deletion of proviso to para (5), which is unnecessary given the revised paras (5) and (6).

Changes to paras (5) and (6) to provide for a protected three hours for any opposed private business set down by the CWM, in line with current practice provided for by business motions, in lieu of setting it down at seven o’clock, four o’clock or two o’clock.
Time for taking questions
21.—(1) Questions shall be taken on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, after private business and motions for unopposed returns have been disposed of.

(2) No question shall be taken more than one hour after the House sits, except urgent questions which have not appeared on the order paper but which are in the Speaker’s opinion of an urgent character and relate either to matters of public importance or to the arrangement of business.

(3) Any questions tabled for written answer on a day on which the House does not sit by reason of the continuance of a previous sitting shall be deemed to be questions for written answer on the next sitting day and shall appear in the questions book for that day.

Drafting amendment in para (2) to reflect changes in SO No. 11.
Notices of questions, motions and amendments
22.—(1) Notices of questions shall be given by Members in writing to the Table Office in a form determined by the Speaker, and each such notice shall indicate whether the question is for oral or written answer.

(2) A notice of a question, or of an amendment to a motion standing on the order paper for which no day has been fixed or of the addition of a name in support of such a motion or amendment, which is given later than half an hour after the normal moment of interruption shall be treated for all purposes as if it were a notice handed in after the rising of the House.

(3) A Member shall indicate on the notice of any question whether it is for oral or written answer and a Member may indicate a date for answer of a question for written answer in accordance with paragraph (4) of this order.

(4) Notices of questions for written answer shall be set down for answer on the next sitting day after the day on which notice of it will appear, except that where a Member has indicated that a question is for written answer on a named day the Minister to whom it is addressed shall cause an answer to be given to the Member on the date for which notice has been given, provided that—

(a) notice has appeared at latest on the notice paper circulated two days (excluding Saturday and Sunday) before that on which an answer is desired; and

(b) a Member may not table more than five such questions on any one day.

(5) Notice of a question for oral answer may be given only for answer on the next day on which the Member to whom it is addressed is due to give oral answers; and in respect of each such day the Speaker shall specify the latest date and time at which notice may be given and how many questions are to be printed published for each Member answering; and only that number of notices of questions (selected at random from those received in a manner to be prescribed by the Speaker) shall be treated as valid notices received on the day concerned:

Provided that the latest date and time specified by the Speaker shall be such as to enable the notices selected to be printed published—

(a) in the case of questions to the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the Advocate General at least four days (excluding Friday, Saturday and Sunday) before the question is to be answered, except during the week following the first day of a Session, when the period shall be at least three days, or

(b) in the case of questions to other Ministers, at least two days (excluding Friday, Saturday and Sunday) before the question is to be answered.
(6) When it is proposed that the House should adjourn for a period of more than three days the Speaker shall cause to have printed and circulated with the Vote a memorandum superseding the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (5) of this order and specifying the arrangements for tabling questions during the adjournment.

Amendments to para (1) to reflect current practice and consequential deletion of para (3).

Addition to para (4) to specify date for ordinary written questions.

Amendment in para (5) to remove need for end-of-session resolution on questions to territorial departments.

Amendments to reflect move from printing to publishing in paras (5) and (6).
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<td>Written statements</td>
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Notices of questions etc. and written statements during September

22B.—(1) When the House stands adjourned for the whole of September, notices of questions for written answer on a named day by a Minister of the Crown may be given on three appointed tabling days, for answer on three appointed answering days, between 2 and 21 September.

(2) A motion to appoint tabling days and answering days under paragraph (1) may be made by a Minister of the Crown; and the question on such a motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(3) Notices of questions for named day answer on one of the appointed answering days, received by the Table Office on any day after the rising of the House for the summer adjournment, shall be treated as if given on—

(a) that day, if they are received on an appointed tabling day; or

(b) the next appointed tabling day, if they are received on any other day, and a Member may not give notice of more than five such questions in respect of each appointed tabling day.

(4) Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (4)(a) of Standing Order No. 22 (Notices of questions, motions and amendments), no notice of a question may be given under this order for a day earlier than five days (excluding Saturday and Sunday) after the day on which the notice is given.

(5) A Minister of the Crown, being a Member of the House, or other Member of the House to whom written questions may be addressed, may give notice on an appointed tabling day of his an intention to make a ministerial statement in written form on an appointed answering day.

(6) In the event of a recall of the House under Standing Order No. 13 (Earlier meeting of House in certain circumstances), the Speaker may publish a memorandum amending the arrangements made under this order.

Clarification in title

Addition to para (1) to clarify that SO is for years in which House does not sit in September.

Amendment to para (5) to reflect changes made by SO No 22A; addition for neutral gender.
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<td>Motions and amendments with a financial consequence for the House of Commons: Administration Estimate</td>
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Select Committee statements.
22D.—(1) (a) On any day allotted for proceedings in the House on backbench business (and not being taken in the form of a half-day), or on any Thursday sitting in Westminster Hall other than one to which subparagraph (b) applies, the Backbench Business Committee may determine that a statement will be made on the publication of a select committee report or announcement of an inquiry.

(b) The Liaison Committee may determine that such a statement may be made in Westminster Hall on any day appointed under paragraph (15) Thursday on which the Liaison Committee has determined the business under paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 10 (Sittings in Westminster Hall).

(2) A statement on the publication of a select committee report or announcement of an inquiry—

(a) shall be made by the chair or another member of the select committee acting on its behalf;

(b) shall take place—

(i) in the House, after questions and any ministerial statements, or

(ii) in Westminster Hall, at the commencement start of proceedings.

(3) A statement made under paragraph (1) above may not take place later than 5 sitting days after the day on which the report is published or inquiry announced.

(4) The Member making a statement may answer questions on it asked by Members called by the Chair, but no question shall be taken after the end of any period specified by the Backbench Business Committee or the Liaison Committee in its determination.

Amendment to para (1)(b) consequent on agreement to revised Standing Order No. 10 proposed in Committee’s report on Business in Westminster Hall.

Drafting amendment in para (2)(b)(ii).
Motions **Ten minute rule motions** for leave to bring in bills and nomination of select committees at commencement **the start** of public business

23.—(1) On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and, if given by a Minister of the Crown, on Mondays and Thursdays, notices of motions for leave to bring in bills, and for the nomination of select committees, may be set down for consideration at the commencement **start** of public business.

(1A) The Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, an **brief** explanatory statement **of up to ten minutes** from the Member who makes and from a Member who opposes any such motion respectively, shall put either the question thereon **on it**, or the question, 'That the debate be now adjourned'.

(2) With respect to a private Member’s motion for leave to bring in a bill under this order—

(a) notice shall be given in the Public Bill Office by the Member in person or by another Member on his or her behalf, but on any one day not more than one notice shall be accepted from any one Member;

(b) no notice shall be given for a day on which a notice of motion under this order already stands on the paper;

(c) no notice shall be given for a day earlier than the fifth or later than the fifteenth sitting day after the day on which it is given;

(d) not more than one such notice shall stand on the paper in the name of any one Member for a day within any period of fifteen sitting days.

(3) No notice may be given under this order for a day on which Mr the Chancellor of the Exchequer has declared his intention of opening his Budget; but—

(i) **(a)** notices proposed to be given for such day, and

(ii) **(b)** notices so given for a day in respect of which such intention is subsequently declared,

shall be treated as having been given for the first Monday on which the House shall sit after the Budget is opened, and may be proceeded with on that day as though it were a Tuesday or a Wednesday.

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Amendment for clarity and conformity with current practice in Title and para (1).

**Division of para (1) into two for clarity and removal of unused provision.**
Gender-neutral amendments to para (3)
Emergency debates
24.—(1) On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Except on a Friday, a Member rising in his or her place at the commencement of public business may propose, in an application lasting not more than three minutes, that the House should debate a specific and important matter that should have urgent consideration.

(1A) If the Speaker is satisfied that the matter is proper to be so debated, the Member shall either obtain the leave of the House, or, if such leave be refused, the assent of not fewer than forty Members who shall rise in their places to support the motion, or, if fewer than forty Members and not fewer than ten shall rise in their places, the House shall, on a division, upon question put forthwith, determine whether such motion shall be made.

(2) If leave is given or the motion is so supported or the House so determines that it shall be made—

(a) the debate shall be held on a motion that the House has considered the specified matter; and

(b) the Speaker shall announce either—

(i) the length of the debate and the time at which it is to be held; or

(ii) that he will make such a statement at a later named hour during that sitting.

(3) Proceedings in respect of a debate under this order may last not more than three hours and, at the conclusion of the time allocated to them pursuant to paragraph (2)(b) of this order, the motion, unless otherwise disposed of, shall lapse.

(4) A Member intending to make an application under this order shall give notice to the Speaker by twelve o’clock on a Monday, half-past ten o’clock on a Tuesday or Wednesday or nine o’clock on a Thursday, noon on a Monday, 10.30 am on a Tuesday or Wednesday or 9.00 am on a Thursday, if the urgency of the matter is known at that hour, and, if the urgency is not so known, he shall give notice as soon thereafter as is practicable. If the Speaker so desires he may defer giving his decision upon whether the matter is proper to be discussed until a named hour, when he may interrupt the proceedings of the House for the purpose.

(5) In determining whether a matter is proper to be discussed, the Speaker shall have regard to the extent to which it concerns the administrative responsibilities of Ministers of the Crown or could come within the scope of ministerial action.

(5A) In determining whether a matter is urgent the Speaker shall have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the House in time by other means.
(6) The Speaker shall state whether or not he is satisfied that the matter is proper to be discussed **should be debated** without giving the reasons for his decision to the House.

(6A) If the Speaker so desires he may defer giving his decision upon whether the matter should be debated until a named hour, when he may interrupt the proceedings of the House for the purpose.

(7) If the Speaker announces that the debate will take place on the same day as the application is made, proceedings on any business postponed as the result of that announcement may continue, following the end of proceedings on that debate, for the same time beyond the moment of interruption as that taken by the debate, and shall not be interrupted, except as provided in paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 15 (Exempted business), paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 20 (Time for taking private business), paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions), paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 54 (Debate on estimates) and paragraph (4) of Standing Order No. 83I (Programme orders: supplementary provisions).

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**Drafting amendment to paras (1), (3) (4) and (7)**

**Addition to para (1) for neutral gender.**

**Splitting of para (5) and move of last sentence of para (4) to new para for clarity.**

**New para (6A) restating in a more appropriate place provision from the end of para (4).**

**Additions to para (7) to correct omission and to reflect new paragraphs (6) of SO No. 20 and (3) of SO No. 54 and revised paragraph (4) of SO No. 83I.**
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Amendments to motions to consider specified matters

24B. Where, in the opinion of the Speaker, or the Chair in Westminster Hall or a grand committee, a motion, That this House, or as the case may be, the committee, has considered the matter, is expressed in neutral terms, no amendments to it may be tabled.

Extension of rule to Westminster Hall and grand committees.

Deletion of archaism.
Periodic adjournments
25. When a motion shall have been made by a Minister of the Crown for the adjournment of the House for a specified period or periods, the question thereon shall be put forthwith and may be decided at any hour, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

Drafting amendments.
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Anticipation,

28. In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time.

Obsolete
Powers of chair to propose question

29.—(1) When a Member is in the course of making a motion or moving an amendment at any stage of proceedings on a bill, a Member rising in his place may claim to move, ‘That the question be now proposed’, and, unless it shall appear to the chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules of the House, the question, ‘That the question be now proposed’, shall be put forthwith, and if a division is held on the question it shall not be approved unless the numbers declared from the chair show that at least one hundred Members voted in the majority in support of the motion. [from SO no 37]

(2) This order shall apply in committee of the whole House only when the Chairman of Ways and Means or either Deputy Chairman is in the chair.

Clarification of paras (1) and (2), gender-neutral addition, drafting amendment and addition for clarity of provision from deleted SO No. 37, with drafting amendments. (Added provision is identical to provision in SO No. 36.)
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Questions on amendments.

31. When an amendment has been moved, the question to be proposed shall be, ‘That the amendment be made’, except that—

(1) when to the question ‘That a bill be now read a second time (or the third time)’ an amendment has been moved to leave out the word ‘now’, the question shall be, ‘That the word “now” stand part of the question’; and

(2) on the twenty days allotted under paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 14 (Arrangement of public business) BB (Opposition days),

(a) where to any substantive motion an amendment has been moved by a Minister of the Crown to leave out a word or words and insert (or add) others, the question shall be, ‘That the original words stand part of the question’, and, if that question be passed in the negative, the question ‘That the proposed words be there inserted (or added)’ shall be put forthwith;

(b) if such an amendment involves leaving out all the effective words of the motion the Speaker shall, after the amendment has been disposed of, forthwith declare the main question (as amended or not as the case may be) to be agreed to.

Deletion of obsolete provision in sub-para (1)

Drafting amendment in sub-para (2)(a) and (b).
Selection of amendments.
32.—(1) In respect of any motion or any bill under consideration on report or any Lords amendment to a bill, the Speaker shall have power to select the amendments, new clauses or new schedules to be proposed thereto.

(1A) The powers conferred on the Speaker by this order may be delegated by him to the Chairman of Ways and Means.

(2) In committee of the whole House, the Chairman of Ways and Means and either Deputy Chairman shall have the like power to select the amendments, new clauses or new schedules to be proposed.

(3) The Speaker, or in a committee of the whole House, the Chairman of Ways and Means or either Deputy Chairman, may, if he think fit, call upon any Member who has given notice of an amendment, new clause or new schedule to give such explanation of the object thereof as may enable him to form a judgment upon it.

(4) For the purposes of this order, motions for instructions to committees on bills, motions to commit or re-commit bills and motions relating to the proceedings on bills shall be treated as if they were amendments under paragraph (1) of this order.

(5) The powers conferred on the Speaker by this order shall not be exercised by the Deputy Speaker save during the consideration of the estimates.

Addition of provision allowing Speaker to delegate to CWM, and consequent deletion of para (5).

Drafting amendments in paras (1) and (2).

Deletion of para (3) because provision has never been used and explanatory notes to amendments make it obsolete.
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Dilatory motions
34.—(1) When a motion is made for the adjournment of a debate or of the House during any debate or of further consideration of a bill or of the Lords amendments to a bill or that the chair do report progress, or do leave the chair, the debate thereupon shall be confined to the matter of such that dilatory motion; and no Member, having made any such dilatory motion, shall be entitled to make any similar motion during the same debate.

(2) The Speaker, or the chair, has discretion whether to allow a Member to move a motion of the kind described in paragraph (1) of this order, and, if he allows the motion, may permit debate or put the question forthwith.

Drafting amendments in para (1).

Amendment for clarity in para (2), incorporating substance of SO No. 35.
Dilatory motion in abuse of rules of House

35.—(1) If the Speaker, or the chair, shall be of the opinion that a dilatory motion is an abuse of the rules of the House, he may forthwith put the question thereupon from the chair, or he may decline to propose the question thereupon to the House or the committee.

(2) For the purposes of this order the expression ‘dilatory motion’ shall include a motion for the adjournment of a debate, or of the House, during any debate, or of further consideration of a bill or of the Lords amendments to a bill, or that the occupant of the chair do report progress or do leave the chair.

Deletion because substance included in new para in SO No. 34.
Closure of debate

36.—(1) After a question has been proposed a Member rising in his or her place may claim to move, ‘That the question be now put,’ and, unless it shall appear to the chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules of the House, or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question ‘That the question be now put,’ shall be put forthwith, and if a division is held on the question it shall not be agreed to unless the numbers declared from the chair show that at least one hundred Members voted in the majority in support of the motion. [from SO no 37]

(2) When a question ‘That the question be now put’ has been agreed to, and the question consequent thereon has been decided, a Member may claim that any further question be put which may be requisite to bring to a decision any question already proposed from the chair, and if the assent of the chair, as aforesaid, be not withheld, any question so claimed shall be put forthwith.

(3) This order shall apply in committee of the whole House only when the Chairman of Ways and Means or either Deputy Chairman is in the chair.

Additions in para (1) for neutral gender and for clarity of provision (with drafting amendments), from deleted SO No. 37. (Added provision is identical to provision in SO No. 29.)

Drafting amendments in paras (1) and (2).

Clarification in para (3).
Majority for closure or for proposal of question
37. If a division be held upon a question for the closure of debate under Standing Order No. 36 (Closure of debate) or for the proposal of the question under Standing Order No. 29 (Powers of chair to propose question), that question shall not be decided in the affirmative unless it appears by the numbers declared from the chair that not fewer than one hundred Members voted in the majority in support of the motion.

Repeal: provisions moved to SOs No. 29 and No. 36 for clarity.
Procedure on divisions.
38.—(1) If the opinion of the Speaker or the chair as to the decision of a question is challenged he or she shall direct that the lobby be cleared.

(2) Not more than two minutes from this direction he or she shall put the question again, and, if his or her opinion is again challenged, he or she shall announce the names of tellers.

(3) After the lapse of at least no less than eight minutes from the direction to clear the lobby he or she shall direct that the doors giving access to the division lobbies be locked.

Additions for neutral gender in paras (1) to (3).

Drafting amendments in paras (1) and (3).
Voting.
39.—(1) A Member may vote in a division although he or she did not hear the question put.

(2) A Member is not obliged to vote.

Addition for neutral gender.
Division unnecessarily claimed.

40. The Speaker or the chair may, after the lapse of two minutes, if in his or her opinion the division is unnecessarily claimed, take the vote of the House, or committee, by calling upon the Members who support, and who challenge, his or her decision, successively to rise in their places; and he or she shall thereupon, as he or she thinks fit, either declare the determination of the House or committee, or name tellers for a division.

Additions for neutral gender and drafting amendment.
Quorum.
41.—(1) If it should appear that fewer than forty Members (including the occupant of the chair and the tellers) have taken part in a division, the business under consideration shall stand over until the next sitting of the House and the next business shall be taken.

(2) The House shall not be counted at any time.

Deletion of obsolete para (2).
Deferred divisions

41A.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this order, Standing Order No. 38 (Procedure on divisions) shall not apply if, after the time for the moment of interruption of business, the opinion of the Speaker as to the decision on a question is challenged in respect of any question.

(2) Standing Order No. 38 (Procedure on divisions) shall apply (and this order shall not apply) to questions—

(a) on motions or amendments in the course of proceedings on bills or allocating time to or programming such proceedings;

(b) on motions which may be made without notice;

(c) on motions to be disposed of immediately following the disposal of amendments proposed thereto, and on such amendments;

(d) on motions made under—

(i) paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 15 (Exempted business);

(ii) paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 51 (Ways and means motions);

(iii) sub-paragraph (1)(a) of Standing Order No. 52 (Money resolutions and ways and means resolutions in connection with bills);

(iiiia) sub-paragraph (1)(a) of Standing Order No. 80A (Carry-over of bills);

(iiiib) sub-paragraph (1)(a) of Standing Order No. 80B (Carry-over (bills brought in upon a ways and means resolution));

(iv) paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 54 (Consideration of estimates); and

(v) paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 55 (Questions on voting of estimates, &c); and

(da) motions for instructions to committees on bills, if such a motion is made at the same sitting as that at which the bill has been read a second time;

(db) on proceedings on Opposition or backbench business to which sub-paragraph (1)(b) of Standing Order No. BB (Opposition days) applies;
(dc) on proceedings on opposed private business set down by the Chairman of Ways and Means under paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 20 (Time for taking private business);

(e) on motions made under paragraph (3) below or to which an order made under that paragraph applies; and

(f) on motions for the adjournment of the House made under Standing Order No. 25 (Periodic adjournments).

(3) After the moment of interruption and the conclusion of proceedings under any other Standing Order which fall to be taken immediately after it, a Minister of the Crown may make a motion to the effect that this order shall not apply to questions on any specified motions; such motion may be proceeded with, though opposed, and the question shall be put forthwith.

(4) If the opinion of the Speaker is challenged under paragraph (1) of this order, he shall defer the division until half past eleven o’clock on the next Wednesday on which the House shall sit.

(5) On any Wednesday to which a division has been deferred under paragraph (4) above—

(a) Members may record their votes on the question under arrangements made by the Speaker;

(b) votes may be recorded for two and a half hours after half past eleven o’clock, no account being taken of any period during which the House or committee proceeds to a division; and

(c) the Speaker, or the chair, shall announce the result of the deferred division as soon as may be after the expiry of the period mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) above.

Drafting addition in para (1) and amendments in paras (3), (4) and (5)(b) and (c).

Exemption from deferred divisions of carry-over motions and instructions to committees, in same way as other bill-related motions.

Exemption of proceedings on Opposition, backbench or opposed business given a protected three hours under revised SOs No. BB and No. 20.

Exemption of periodic adjournment motions from deferred divisions.
Irrelevance or repetition.
42. The Speaker, or the chair, after having called the attention of the House, or of the committee, to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance, or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments already used by other Members in debate, may direct him or her to discontinue his or her speech.

Simplification and additions for neutral gender.
Sub judice.
42A. The Speaker, or the chair, may direct any Member who breaches the terms of the sub judice resolution of the House to resume his seat. **Discontinue his or her speech.**

Amendment to ensure consistency by using same language as SO No.42.
Disorderly conduct

43. (1) The Speaker, or the chair, shall order any Member or Members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during for the remainder of that day’s sitting; and the Serjeant at Arms shall act on such orders as he may receive from the chair in pursuance of under this order.

(2) But if on any occasion the Speaker, or the chair, deems that his powers under the previous provisions of this order are inadequate considers that the circumstances warrant it, he or she may name such Member or Members, in which event the same procedure shall be followed as is prescribed by Standing Order No. 44 (Order in debate).

Drafting amendments.

Division into two paragraphs and drafting amendment to clarify two-step nature of process.
Order in debate Naming of Members

44.—(1) Whenever a Member shall have been named by the Speaker, or by the chair, immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the chair, or of persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House by abusing the rules of the House or otherwise, then if the offence has been committed by such Member in the House, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question, on a motion being made, ‘That such Member be suspended from the service of the House’; and if the offence has been committed in a committee of the whole House, the chair shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the committee and report the circumstances to the House; and the Speaker shall on a motion being made forthwith put the same question as if the offence had been committed in the House itself.

Proceedings in pursuance of under this paragraph, though opposed, may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business moment of interruption.

(2) If any Member be suspended under paragraph (1) of this order, his or her suspension on the first occasion shall continue for five sitting days, and on the second occasion for twenty sitting days, including in either case the day on which he or she was suspended, but, on any subsequent occasion, for the remainder of the session or until the House shall resolve order that the suspension of such Member do terminate ends.

(3) Not more than one Member shall be named at the same time, unless two or more Members, present together, have jointly disregarded the authority of the chair.

(4) If a Member, or two or more Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, when severally summoned under the Speaker’s orders by the Serjeant at Arms to obey such direction, the Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction, and the Member or Members named by him as having refused to obey his direction shall without any further question being put be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session.

(5) Nothing in this order shall be taken to deprive the House of the power of proceeding against any Member according to ancient usages.

Amendment of title for clarity

Drafting amendments in paras (1) and (2).

Addition to para (2) to clarify end of suspension for repeated offences.

Additions for neutral gender in para (2).
Drafting amendments in para (4), also clarifying period of suspension.

Deletion of obsolete para (5).
Members suspended, &c., to withdraw from precincts.
45.—(1) Members who are ordered to withdraw under Standing Order No. 43 (Disorderly conduct) or who are suspended from the service of the House shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House.

(2) Suspension from the service of the House shall not exempt the Member so suspended from serving on any committee for the consideration of a private bill to which he or she may have been appointed before the suspension.

Addition for neutral gender in para (2).
Suspension of salary of Members suspended.
45A. The salary of a Member suspended from the service of the House shall be withheld for the duration of his or her suspension.

Addition for neutral gender: possible alternative redraft is "of that suspension".
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Time limits on speeches

47.—(1) The Speaker may announce that he intends to call Members to speak in a debate, or at certain times during that debate, for no longer than any period he may specify, and he may at any time make subsequent announcements varying the terms of an announcement under this paragraph.

(2) Whenever the Speaker has made an announcement under paragraph (1), he may, subject to paragraph (5), direct any Member (other than a Minister of the Crown, a Member speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, or not more than one Member nominated by the leader of the second largest opposition party) who has spoken for that period to resume his seat forthwith discontinue his or her speech.

(3) The Speaker may announce, at or before the commencement start of any debate (other than a topical debate) in respect of which he has made or intends to make an announcement under paragraph (1) of this order, that speeches by a Minister of the Crown, Members speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, and not more than one Member nominated by the leader of the second largest opposition party shall be limited to twenty minutes and he may direct any such Member who has spoken for that period to resume his seat forthwith discontinue his or her speech.

(4) The Speaker may announce, at or before the commencement start of a topical debate in respect of which he has made or intends to make an announcement under paragraph (1) of this order, that speeches by a Minister of the Crown and any Member speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition shall be limited to ten minutes and he may direct any such Member who has spoken for that period to resume his seat forthwith discontinue his or her speech.

(5) In relation to any speech, the Speaker shall add to any period specified—

(a) under paragraph (1) of this order—

(i) one minute if one intervention is accepted, plus the time taken by that intervention;

(ii) two minutes if two or more interventions are accepted, plus the time taken by the first two such interventions;

(b) under paragraph (3) or (4) of this order, one minute for each intervention accepted up to a maximum of fifteen minutes.

Changes in (2), (3) and (4) for consistency with SO No. 42 and neutral gender. Drafting amendments in paras (3) and (4).
Recommendation from Crown required on application relating to public money
48. This House will receive no petition for any sum relating to public service or proceed upon any motion for a grant or charge upon the public revenue, whether payable out of the Consolidated Fund or the National Loans Fund or out of money to be provided by Parliament, or for releasing or compounding any sum of money owing to the Crown, unless recommended from the Crown.

Correction of syntax.
Certain proceedings relating to public money.

49. Any charge upon the public revenue, whether payable out of the Consolidated Fund or the National Loans Fund or out of money to be provided by Parliament, including any provision for releasing or compounding any sum of money owing to the Crown, shall be authorised by resolution of the House.

Punctuation amended to follow SO No. 48.
Procedure upon bills whose main object is to create a charge upon the public revenue
50.—(1) A bill (other than a bill which is required to be brought in upon a ways and
means resolution) the main object of which is the creation of a public charge may either
be presented, or brought in upon an order of the House, by a Minister of the Crown,
and, in the case of a bill so presented or brought in, the creation of the charge shall not
require to be authorised by a resolution of the House until the bill has been read a
second time, and after the charge has been so authorised the bill shall be proceeded with
in the same manner as a bill which involves a charge that is subsidiary to its main
purpose.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this order shall apply to any bill brought from the
Lords, of which a Minister of the Crown has informed the Clerks at the Table of Public Bills
Office of his or her intention to take charge.

Addition for neutral gender and drafting amendment in para (2).
Ways and means motions.
51.—(1) A ways and means motion may be made in the House without notice on any day as soon as an address has been agreed to in answer to Her Majesty's Speech.

(2) A Minister of the Crown may without notice make a motion for giving provisional statutory effect to any proposals in pursuance of section 5 of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act 1968; and the question on such a motion shall be put forthwith.

(3) When the question has been decided on the first of several motions upon which a bill is to be brought in for imposing, renewing, varying or repealing any charge upon the people, the question on each such further motion shall be put forthwith; and proceedings in pursuance of this paragraph, though opposed, may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business

Drafting amendments in paras (2) and (3).
**Money resolutions and ways and means resolutions in connection with bills.**

52.—(1) The Speaker shall put the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on motions authorising expenditure in connection with a bill and on ways and means motions in connection with a bill—

(a) forthwith, if such a motion is made at the same sitting as that at which the bill has been read a second time; or

(b) not later than three-quarters of an hour after the commencement of those proceedings, if the motion is made otherwise.

(2) Business to which this order applies may be proceeded with at any hour after the moment of interruption, though opposed.

**Drafting amendments**
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Consideration of debates on estimates
54.—(1) Three days, other than Fridays, shall be allotted in each session for the consideration of estimates set down under the provisions of paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 145 (Liaison Committee); and not more than one day so allotted may be taken in the form of two half days, not being Fridays.

(2) On any such day, not being taken in the form of a half day,—

(a) consideration of estimates or reports of the Liaison Committee relating thereto shall stand as first business, unless the Speaker has set down an emergency debate as first business that day, and

(b) other business may be taken before the moment of interruption only if the consideration of estimates has been concluded.

Provided that the foregoing provisions of this paragraph shall not apply on any day on which time has been allocated pursuant to paragraph (2)(b) of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates).

(3) On any such half day, consideration of estimates or reports of the Liaison Committee relating to them may be proceeded with for three hours, and shall then be interrupted; and proceedings under this paragraph may be proceeded with, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(4) On any day or half day allotted under this order, questions necessary to dispose of proceedings (other than a dilatory motion) on the estimates on which debate has been concluded shall be deferred until the day and hour prescribed under paragraph (6) of this order.

(5) Any estimates on which questions have been deferred to another day in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (6) of this order, together with any questions so deferred, and all other estimates appointed for consideration on any previous day or half day allotted under this order shall be set down for consideration on the day to which the questions have been deferred.

(6) On the day to which the provisions of paragraph (2) or (3) of Standing Order No. 55 (Questions on voting of estimates, &c.) apply which falls after or on any day or half-day allotted under this order, the Speaker shall, at the time prescribed in paragraph (1) of that order, put, successively, any questions deferred under paragraph (4) of this order on any previous day or half day allotted under this order, any questions deferred under paragraph (4) of this order on the day and any questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on all other estimates appointed for consideration on any day or half day allotted under this order.

Drafting amendments in title and paras (1) and (4).
Deletion of sub-para (2)(b) as unnecessary.

New para (3) to bring in line with current practice (done by business motion).
Questions on voting of estimates, &c.

55.—(1) On any day to which the provisions of paragraph (2) or (3) of this order apply, at the moment of interruption or as soon thereafter as any debate on estimates or reports of the Liaison Committee relating to them under paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 54 (Consideration of estimates) or any proceedings under paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates) have ended, proceedings under the proviso to paragraph (3)(b) of Standing Order No. 54 (Consideration of estimates) have been disposed of, the Speaker shall (after putting any questions required to be put under paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 54) put the questions on—

(a) any outstanding vote relating to numbers for defence services;

(b) any motion authorising amounts set out in outstanding estimates.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this order shall apply on a day not later than 18 March, if any of the following total amounts have been put down for consideration:

(a) votes on account for the coming financial year;

(b) supplementary and new estimates for the current financial year which have been presented at least fourteen days previously;

(c) votes relating to numbers for defence services;

(d) excess votes, provided that the Committee of Public Accounts has reported that it sees no objection to the amounts necessary being authorised by excess vote.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this order shall apply on a day not later than 5 August in respect of any motion authorising amounts set out in outstanding estimates.

(4) At least two days’ notice shall be given of the motions which are to be put down for consideration under paragraphs (2) or (3) of this order.

(5) The provisions of this order shall not apply to any vote of credit or votes for supplementary or additional estimates for war expenditure.
Amendments to para (1) firstly to reflect amendments made to SO No. 54, and secondly to bring this SO into line with amendments previously made to SO No. 24 (Emergency debates).

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Presentation and first reading.
57.—(1) A Member may, after notice, present a bill without previously obtaining leave from the House to bring it in the same.

(2) When a bill is presented either in pursuance of an order of the House or under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this order, the bill shall be read the first time without any question being put, shall be ordered to be read a second time on such day as the Member presenting it shall appoint, and shall be ordered to be printed.

Drafting amendments.
Bills brought from the Lords

57A.—(1) If a Member informs the Clerks at the Table of his or her intention to take charge of a bill which has been brought from the Lords, the bill shall be deemed to have been read the first time on the day on which the Member so informs the Clerks, and to have been ordered to be read a second time on such day as he or she shall appoint, and shall be recorded in the Journal of the House as having been read the first time and ordered to be read a second time on the day so appointed, and shall be ordered to be printed.

(2) If a public bill is passed by the Lords and carried to the office of the Clerk of the House at a time when this House is not sitting, then, provided that a Member shall have notified the Clerks at the Table, in writing, of his or her intention to take charge of the bill—

(a) the Clerk of the House shall arrange for the printing and circulation of copies of the bill, and

(b) the bill shall be recorded in the Journal of the House as having been read the first time on the next sitting day and as having been ordered to be printed pursuant to this standing order and to be read a second time on such day as the Member shall have appointed.

Additions for neutral gender and drafting amendments in paras (1) and (2).
Consolidation bills

58.—(1) In this order ‘a consolidation bill’ means a public bill which falls to be considered by the select committee appointed under Standing Order No. 140 (Joint Committee on Consolidation, &c., Bills).

(2) Notices of amendments, new clauses and new schedules to be moved in committee in respect of a consolidation bill may be received by the Clerks at the Table before the bill has been read a second time.

(3) When a motion shall have been made for the second reading, or for the third reading, of a consolidation bill, the question thereon shall be put forthwith.

(4) If a motion that a consolidation bill be not committed is made by a Minister of the Crown immediately after the bill has been read a second time, the motion shall not require notice and the question thereon shall be put forthwith and may be decided at any hour, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

Drafting amendments in para (2), (3) and (4).
Law Commission bills.
59.—(1) Any public bill, the main purpose of which is to give effect to proposals contained in a report by either of the Law Commissions, other than a private Member’s bill or a bill to which Standing Order No. 58 (Consolidation bills) applies, shall, when it is set down for second reading, stand referred to a second reading committee, unless—

(a) the House otherwise orders, or

(b) the bill is referred to the Scottish Grand Committee.

(2) If a motion that a bill such as is referred to in paragraph (1) above shall no longer stand referred to a second reading committee is made by a Minister of the Crown at the commencement of public business, the question thereon shall be put forthwith.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (3) to (5) of Standing Order No. 90 (Second reading committees) shall apply to any bill referred to a second reading committee under paragraph (1) above.

Drafting amendment in para (2).
Tax law rewrite bills.

60.—(1) In this order 'a tax law rewrite bill' means a bill which has been presented, or brought in upon an order of the House, by a Minister of the Crown and which has been ordered to be proceeded with as such a bill.

(2) A motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown at the commencement of public business, that a specified bill be so proceeded with, and the question thereon shall be put forthwith.

(3) A tax law rewrite bill shall, upon the making of an order under paragraph (2) above, stand referred to a second reading committee unless the House otherwise orders.

(4) A motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown at the commencement of public business, that a tax law rewrite bill shall no longer stand referred to a second reading committee, and the question thereon shall be put forthwith.

(5) The provisions of paragraphs (3) to (5) of Standing Order No. 90 (Second reading committees) shall apply to any bill referred to a second reading committee under paragraph (3) above.

(6) A tax law rewrite bill shall, upon its being read a second time, stand committed to the Joint Committee on Tax Law Rewrite Bills.

(7) A bill which has been reported from the said Joint Committee shall stand re-committed to a committee of the whole House unless the House otherwise orders.

(8) If a motion that the committee of the whole House be discharged from considering a tax law rewrite bill is made by a Minister of the Crown immediately after the order of the day has been read for the House to resolve itself into a committee on the bill, the motion shall not require notice and the question thereon shall be put forthwith and may be decided at any hour, though opposed, after the moment of interruption; and if such question is agreed to the bill shall be ordered to be read the third time.

Drafting amendment in paras (2), (4) and (8).
Bills which are *prima facie* hybrid

61.—(1) Where a public bill (not being a bill to confirm a provisional order or certificate) is ordered to be read a second time on a future day, and it appears that the standing orders relating to private business may be applicable to the bill, the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills shall be ordered to examine the bill and they shall proceed and report with all convenient speed whether the said standing orders are applicable thereto.

(2) If the Examiners find that the standing orders are applicable, they shall further report whether they have been complied with.

(3) If the Examiners report that any standing order applicable to the bill has not been complied with, and the Standing Orders Committee report that such standing order ought not to be dispensed with, the order of the day relating to the bill shall be discharged.

Deletion of obsolete provision in para (1) and division of para into two for clarity. Drafting amendment in para (1)
Amendment on second or third reading

62.—(1) If on an amendment to the question ‘That a bill be now read a second time (or the third time)’ it is decided that the word ‘now’ stand part of the question, the Speaker shall forthwith declare the bill to be read a second or the third time as the case may be.

(2) When the question has been proposed ‘That a bill be now read a second time (or the third time)’ and the question on any amendment to leave out all the words after ‘That’ and insert other words has been disagreed to, the main question shall be put forthwith.

Deletion of obsolete para (1).

Updating of archaic language in para (2)
Committal of bills not subject to a programme order.
63.—(1) When a public bill (other than a Consolidated Fund or an Appropriation Bill, or a tax law rewrite bill, or a bill for confirming a provisional order) has been read a second time, it shall stand committed to a public bill committee unless the House otherwise orders.

(2) A motion—

(a) to commit a bill to a committee of the whole House or to a select committee, or a motion that it is expedient that a bill be committed to a joint committee of Lords and Commons; or

(b) to give a public bill committee to which a bill has been committed under this order power to send for persons, papers and records,

may be made by any Member and if made immediately after the bill has been read a second time shall not require notice, and, though opposed, may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business, and the question thereon shall be put forthwith.

(3) A motion to commit a bill to a public bill committee in respect of some of its provisions and to a committee of the whole House in respect of other provisions may be made by the Member in charge of the bill and, if made immediately after the bill has been read a second time, shall not require notice, and may, though opposed, be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business. If such a motion is opposed, the Speaker after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from a Member who opposes the motion shall, without permitting any further debate, put the question thereon on it.

(4) If the question on a motion made under paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) of this order is negatived, the Speaker shall forthwith declare that the bill stands committed to a public bill committee.

Drafting amendments in paras (2)(b) and (3).
Notices of amendments, &c., to bills

64. Whenever the House is adjourned for more than one day, notices of amendments to bills, new clauses or new schedules or of amendments notices relating to Lords amendments or messages received in the Public Bill Office at any time not later than half-past four o’clock 4.30 pm on the last day (excluding any Saturday, Sunday, bank holiday or public holiday in England) on which the House is not sitting, or if that last day is a Friday, not later than 3.00 pm on that day (excluding any Saturday, Sunday, bank holiday or public holiday in England) may be accepted as if the House were sitting.

Amendment to reflect current practice in respect of notices relating to Lords amendments and messages.

Drafting amendments

Addition to match arrangements for non-sitting Fridays in sitting weeks (SO No 11(3)).
Amendments in committee.

65. All committees to which bills may be committed or referred for consideration on report shall have power to make such amendments therein as they shall think fit, provided they be relevant to the subject matter of the bill: but if any such amendments shall not be within the long title of the bill, they shall amend the long title accordingly, and report the same specially to the House.

Drafting amendments for clarity.
Committee of whole House on bill.
66. Whenever an order of the day is read for the House to resolve itself into a committee on a bill, the Speaker shall leave the chair without putting any question, and the House shall thereupon then resolve itself into such committee, unless notice of an instruction to such committee has been given, when in which case such that instruction shall be first disposed of first, or unless the committee is discharged in pursuance of under paragraph (8) of Standing Order No. 60 (Tax law rewrite bills).

Drafting amendments for clarity.
Postponement of preamble.

67. In a committee on a bill any preamble shall stand postponed until after the consideration of the clauses and of any schedules.

Repeal SO, because settled practice of the House does not require specification in Standing Orders.
Debate on clause or schedule standing part.

68. If, during the consideration of a bill in a committee of the whole House, the chair is of the opinion that the principle of a clause or schedule and any matters arising thereon have been adequately discussed in the course of debate on the amendments proposed thereto, he or she may, after the last amendment to be selected has been disposed of, state that he or she is of this opinion and shall then forthwith put the question ‘That the clause (or, the clause, as amended) stand part of the bill’ or ‘That this schedule (or this schedule, as amended) be the schedule to the bill’, as the case may be.

Drafting amendments.

Additions for neutral gender.
**Procedure on offer of new clause**

69. When a Member has brought up a clause or schedule in committee on a bill or on consideration of a bill on report, it shall be read the first time without any question being put.

Repeal SO, because settled practice of the House does not require specification in Standing Orders.
When chair leaves chair without question put.

70. When the chair of a committee of the whole House has been ordered to make a report to the House, he or she shall leave the chair without putting any question.

(2) Every such report shall be brought up without any question being put.

Addition for neutral gender.

Deletion of otiose provision.
Report of bill from committee of whole House.

71. At the close of the proceedings of a committee of the whole House on a bill, the chair shall report the bill forthwith to the House, and when amendments shall have been made thereto if the bill has been amended, a day shall be appointed for taking the bill, as amended, into consideration, unless the House shall order it the bill to be taken into consideration forthwith.

Drafting amendments for clarity.
Consideration of bill as amended in committee of whole House,

72. When the order of the day for the consideration of a bill, as amended in a committee of the whole House, has been read, the House shall proceed to consider the same without question put, unless the Member in charge thereof nominates a future day for its consideration or a motion shall be made to re-commit the bill in whole or in part.

Repeal SO, because settled practice of the House does not require specification in Standing Orders.
Report of bills committed to public bill committees.
73. Save as provided in Standing Order No. 92 (Consideration on report of certain bills by a general legislation committee) every bill committed to and reported from a public bill committee, whether amended or not, shall be considered on report by the House, and the provisions of Standing Order No. 72 (Consideration of bill as amended in committee of whole House) shall apply to such consideration.

Drafting amendment following change of general committees to legislation committees

Deletion of provision referring to deleted SO No. 72.
Re-committal of bill.
74. If a motion to re-commit a bill as a whole be made, the Speaker shall permit a brief explanatory statement of the reasons for such re-committal from the Member who makes, and a brief statement from a Member who opposes, any such motion, and shall then put the question thereon on it.

Drafting amendment.
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Debate on bill reported from public bill committee

76. When a bill has been committed to a public bill committee, or has been so committed in respect of some of its provisions, then, on consideration on report of the bill or such of its provisions as were so committed, The rule against speaking more than once shall not apply to the Member in charge of the bill or to the mover of any amendment or new clause or schedule in respect of that amendment or clause or schedule.

A Member may speak only once to any Question unless the House has given leave to speak again; but this rule shall not apply to the mover of a motion, other than a motion for the adjournment or a dilatory motion, or an order of the day, or, at consideration on report of a Bill, to the Member in charge of the Bill or to the mover of any amendment, new section or new schedule in respect of that amendment, new section or new schedule.

Rewriting to remove obsolete and inoperable restriction and to reflect current practice. Rewrite adds new right for mover of order of the day to speak twice.
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Lords amendments.

78.—(1) Lords amendments to public bills and Lords reasons shall be appointed to be considered on a future day, unless the House shall order them to be considered forthwith, and the provisions of Standing Order No. 57A (Bills brought from the Lords) shall apply to the appointment of consideration and the printing of Lords amendments and reasons as they apply to the appointment of second reading and the printing of bills brought from the House of Lords.

(2) When the order of the day for the consideration of Lords amendments to a public bill or Lords reasons has been read, the House shall proceed to consider the same without question put, unless the Member in charge thereof nominates a future day for their consideration.

(3) If the Speaker is satisfied that a Lords amendment imposes a charge upon the public revenue such as is required to be authorised by resolution of the House under Standing Order No. 49 (Certain proceedings relating to public money) and that such charge has not been so authorised, or that it would need a ways and means resolution and the necessary resolution has not been passed, on reaching that amendment, the Speaker shall declare that he is so satisfied and the amendment shall be deemed to have been disagreed to and shall be so recorded in the Journal.

Deletion of para (2) for consistency with SO No. 72.

Para (4), addition of reference to ways and means resolution to reflect current practice.
Financial privilege [Pecuniary penalties]

79. With respect to any bill brought to this House from the House of Lords, or returned by the House of Lords to this House, with amendments, whereby any pecuniary penalty, forfeiture, or fee shall be authorised, imposed, appropriated, regulated, varied, or extinguished, this House will not insist on its ancient and undoubted financial privileges in the following cases:

(1) when the object of such pecuniary penalty or forfeiture is to secure the execution of the Act, or the punishment or prevention of offences;

(2) where such fees are imposed in respect of benefit taken or service rendered under the Act, and in order to further the execution of the Act, and are not made payable into the Consolidated Fund, or in aid of the public revenue, and do not form the ground of public accounting by the parties receiving the same, either in respect of deficit or surplus;

(3) when the bill shall be a private bill for a local or personal Act.
Financial privilege Privilege (bills brought from the Lords)

80. The House may proceed with any public bill brought from the Lords except a bill of aids and supplies, provided that—

(a) it is so framed that no charge upon the people or upon public funds, unless it be a such a charge as is defined in Standing Order No. 79 (Pecuniary penalties), is imposed or altered; and

(b) in the case of a bill which, if it were not so framed, would have as its main object the imposition or alteration of such a charge, a Minister of the Crown has informed the Clerk at the Table of his or her intention to take charge of it.

Clarification in title.

Drafting amendments in sub-para (a).

Addition for neutral gender and drafting amendment in sub-para (b).
Carry-over of bills

80A.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this order and of Standing Order No 80B (Carry-over of bills brought in upon a Ways and Means Resolution), a Minister of the Crown may give notice of a motion (a ‘carry-over motion’) that proceedings on a public bill not completed before the end of the Session shall be resumed in the next Session of Parliament; and the Speaker shall put any question necessary to dispose of proceedings on such a motion (other than a motion relating to a bill brought in upon a ways and means resolution)—

(a) forthwith if the motion is made on the day the bill is read a second time; or

(b) not more than one and a half hours after the commencement of proceedings on the motion if the motion is made at any other time.

(2) A carry-over motion may be proceeded with, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(3) A carry-over motion shall not be made in respect of more than one bill.

(4) A carry-over motion shall not be made in respect of a bill carried over from a previous Session of Parliament.

(5) A carry-over motion may be made only in respect of a bill presented by a Minister of the Crown.

(6) The provisions of this order shall not apply to a carry-over motion made in respect of a bill brought from the Lords.

(7) Paragraphs (8) to (11) of this order shall apply to any bill (other than a bill brought in upon a ways and means resolution) ordered to be carried over to the next Session of Parliament in pursuance of a carry-over motion.

(8) If proceedings in committee on the bill are begun but not completed before the end of the first Session, the chair shall report the bill to the House as so far amended and the bill and any evidence received by the committee shall be ordered to lie upon the Table.

(9) In any other case, proceedings on the bill shall be suspended at the conclusion of the Session in which the bill was first introduced.

(10) If a bill is presented in the next Session in the same terms as the bill reported to the House under paragraph (8) or as it stood when proceedings were suspended under paragraph (9), the bill shall be read the first and second time without question put, shall be ordered to be printed, and—
Revision of Standing Orders

(a) in the case of a bill reported from a public bill committee under paragraph (8), shall stand committed to a public bill committee in respect of those clauses and schedules not ordered to stand part of the bill in the first Session;

(b) in the case of a bill reported from a committee of the whole House under paragraph (8), shall stand committed to a committee of the whole House in respect of those clauses and schedules not ordered to stand part of the bill in the first Session;

(c) in the case of a bill committed to a public bill committee but on which proceedings on the bill were not begun, shall again stand committed to a public bill committee;

(d) otherwise shall be set down as an order of the day for (as the case may be) committee, consideration, further consideration or third reading.

(10) If a bill is presented in the next Session in the same terms as the bill reported to the House under paragraph (8) or as it stood when proceedings were suspended under paragraph (9), the bill shall be read the first and second time without question put, and shall be ordered to be printed, and paragraphs (11) to (14) shall apply to the bill.

(11) If the bill was not set down for consideration at any time in the first Session, any committal order in respect of the bill shall apply to proceedings on the bill in the next Session (subject to paragraphs (12) and (13)).

(12) A bill reported from a public bill committee under paragraph (8) shall stand committed to a public bill committee in respect of those clauses and schedules which were committed to a public bill committee in the first Session and not ordered to stand part of the bill in the first Session.

(13) A bill reported from a committee of the whole House under paragraph (8) shall stand committed to a committee of the whole House in respect of those clauses and schedules which were committed to a committee of the whole House in the first Session and not ordered to stand part of the bill in the first Session.

(14) If the bill was read a second time in the first Session and was not set down for consideration at any time in that Session, any order of the House giving leave for a committee on the bill to sit twice on the first day on which it meets in the first Session shall apply to the first day on which the committee meets in the next Session.

(15) If the bill was set down for consideration at any time in the first Session, the bill shall be set down as an order of the day for (as the case may be) consideration, further consideration or third reading.

(16) Notices of amendments, new clauses and new schedules given in respect of parts of a bill not disposed of in the first Session shall be reprinted as notices in respect of the bill as presented and proceeded with under paragraph (10).
(12 17) A programme order relating to a bill which is carried over to the next session of Parliament shall continue to apply in the next Session.

(13 18) Proceedings on a bill ordered to be carried over to the next Session of Parliament shall lapse on the expiry end of the period of twelve months from the date of its first reading in this House and the bill shall be laid aside unless the House shall order, in pursuance of under a motion under paragraph (19), that proceedings on the bill be extended for a specified period.

(14 19) A motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown to extend for a specified period proceedings on a bill which would otherwise lapse under paragraph (18), and any such motion—

(a) may contain provisions amending or supplementing a programme order in respect of the bill;

(b) may be proceeded with, though opposed, after the moment of interruption;

and the Speaker shall put any question necessary to dispose of proceedings on any such motion not later than one and a half hours after the commencement start of those proceedings.

Addition of reference to SO No. 80B in para (1).

Drafting amendments in paras (1)(b), (7), (9), (10), (11), (13) and (14).

New paras (10) to (13) and (15) (amending previous para (10)) to provide explicitly for split committal.

New para (14) for consistency with SO No. 80B.
Carry-over (bills brought in upon a ways and means resolution).

80B.—(1) The Speaker shall put any question necessary to dispose of proceedings on a carry-over motion of which a Minister of the Crown has given notice under Standing Order No. 80A (Carry-over of bills) relating to a bill brought in upon a ways and means resolution—

(a) forthwith if the motion is made on any day before the bill is read a second time, or on the day the bill is read a second time; or

(b) not more than one and a half hours after the commencement of proceedings on the motion if the motion is made at any other time.

(2) The following paragraphs of this order shall apply to any bill ordered to be carried over to the next Session of Parliament in pursuance of a carry-over motion to which paragraph (1) applies.

(3) If proceedings in committee on the bill are begun but not completed before the end of the first Session, the chair shall report the bill to the House as so far amended and the bill and any evidence received by the committee shall be ordered to lie upon the Table.

(4) In any other case, proceedings on the bill shall be suspended at the conclusion of the Session in which the bill was first introduced.

(5) In the next Session of Parliament, a Minister of the Crown may, after notice, present a bill in the same terms as the bill reported to the House under paragraph (3) of this order or as it stood when proceedings were suspended under paragraph (4) of this order; the bill shall be read the first time without question put and shall be ordered to be printed; and paragraphs (6) to (13) shall apply to the bill.

(6) In respect of all proceedings on the bill, any resolution which the bill was brought in upon in the first Session shall be treated as if it were such a resolution of the House in the next Session and any reference in any resolution upon which the bill was brought in to a Bill or Act of the present Session shall be treated in the next Session as a reference to a Bill or Act of that Session.

(7) In respect of all proceedings on the bill, the bill shall be treated as a bill brought in upon ways and means resolutions.

(8) If the bill was read a second time in the first Session, it shall be read a second time without question put.

(9) If the bill was not set down for consideration at any time in the first Session, any committal order in respect of the bill shall apply to proceedings on the bill in the next Session (subject to paragraphs (10) and (11)).
(10) If the bill was reported from a public bill committee under paragraph (3), it shall stand committed to a public bill committee in respect of those clauses and schedules which were committed to a public bill committee in the first Session and not ordered to stand part of the bill in that Session.

(11) If the bill was reported from a committee of the whole House under paragraph (3), it shall stand committed to a committee of the whole House in respect of those clauses and schedules which were committed to a committee of the whole House in the first Session and not ordered to stand part of the bill in that Session.

(12) If the bill was read a second time in the first Session and was not set down for consideration at any time in that Session, any order of the House giving leave for a committee on the bill to sit twice on the first day on which it meets in the first Session shall apply to the first day on which the committee meets in the next Session.

(13) If the bill was set down for consideration at any time in the first Session, the bill shall be set down as an order of the day for (as the case may be) consideration, further consideration or third reading.

(14) Notices of amendments, new clauses and new schedules given in respect of parts of the bill not disposed of in the first Session shall be reprinted as notices in respect of the bill as presented and proceeded with under paragraph (5).

Drafting amendments in paras (1)(b), (2), (4), (10), (11) and (14).

Deletion of para (12) because of addition of new para (2)(b) of SO No. 84A.
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Business Committee
82. There shall be a committee, to be called the Business Committee, consisting of the Chairman of Ways and Means, who shall be chair of the committee, and not more than eight other Members to be nominated by the Speaker, in respect of each bill to which this order applies. The quorum of the committee shall be four. The committee—

(a) shall, in the case of any bill in respect of which an order has been made by the House, allotting a specified number of days or portions of days to the consideration of the bill in committee of the whole House or on report, divide the bill into such parts as it may see fit and allot to each part so many days or portions of a day so allotted as it may consider appropriate; and

(b) shall report its resolution (or resolutions) to the House, and on a motion being made for the consideration of such report the question thereon shall be put forthwith and on consideration of the said that report the question ‘That this House doth agree with the committee in its resolution (or resolutions)’ shall be put forthwith and, if that question is agreed to, any such resolution shall have effect as if it were an order of the House.

Proceedings in pursuance of this sub-paragraph, though opposed, may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business.

Drafting amendments in para (1)(b).
Allocation of time to bills

83. If a motion, other than a programme motion, be made by a Minister of the Crown providing for an allocation of time to any proceedings on a bill the Speaker shall, not more than three hours after the commencement [start] of the proceedings on such a motion, put any question necessary to dispose of those proceedings.

Clarification and drafting amendments, including disapplication of this SO to programme motions, previously in SO No. 83A(14).
Programme motions

83A.—(1) If, before second reading of a bill, notice of a motion providing—

(a) for committal of the bill, and

(b) for any proceedings on the bill to be programmed,

is given by a Minister of the Crown, the motion may be made immediately after second reading, and Standing Order No. 63 (Committal of bills not subject to a programme order) shall not apply to the bill.

(2) Such a motion is to be called a programme motion.

(3) A programme motion may not disapply paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 84A (Public bill committees).

(4) An order made by the House as a result of a programme motion is to be called a programme order.

(5) A motion to vary or supplement a programme order is also to be called a programme motion.

(6) A programme motion may provide for the allocation of time for any proceedings on a bill.

(7) Except in the following four cases, the question on a programme motion is to be put forthwith.

(8) The first exception is where—

(a) a public bill committee has reported a resolution under paragraph (12) of Standing Order No. 83C (Programming sub-committees) proposing an alteration of the date by which the bill is to be reported to the House, and

(b) the motion made under paragraph (13) of Standing Order No. 83C does not give effect to the public bill committee’s proposal.

(9) The second exception is where the motion makes further provision for proceedings on consideration and third reading of the bill otherwise than in accordance with a resolution of a public bill committee under paragraph (14) of Standing Order No. 83C.

(10) The third exception is where the motion reduces the amount of time allocated under a programme order for any proceedings on the bill (whether or not it also increases the amount of time allocated for other proceedings on the bill).
(11) The fourth exception is where the motion relates to a resolution of a programming committee.

(12) If any of the exceptions applies, any question necessary to dispose of proceedings on a programme motion is to be put not later than three-quarters of an hour after the commencement of proceedings on the motion.

(13) Standing Order No. 15(1) (Exempted business) applies to proceedings on a programme motion.

(14) Standing Order No. 83 (Allocation of time to bills) does not apply to a programme motion.

(15) If a programme order applies to a bill, neither Standing Order No. 82 (Business Committee) nor Standing Order No. 120 (Business sub-committees) applies to the bill.

Drafting amendment in para (12).

Deletion of para (13) because of related changes to SO No. 15(1).

Deletion of para (14) because now provided for in SO No. 83.
Programming committees.

83B.—(1) This order applies if proceedings in committee of the whole House or on consideration and third reading are subject to a programme order.

(2) There is to be a committee for the bill consisting of—

(a) the Chairman of Ways and Means (who is to be chair of the committee); and

(b) not more than eight other Members, nominated by the Speaker.

(3) The committee is to be called the programming committee.

(4) The quorum of the programming committee is four.

(5) The programming committee shall consider the allocation of time to proceedings in committee of the whole House or on consideration and third reading and report any resolution which it makes to the House.

(6) Proceedings in the programming committee shall be brought to an end, not later than two hours after their commencement.

(7) For the purposes of bringing any proceedings to an end in accordance with paragraph (6), the chair shall—

(a) first put forthwith any question already proposed from the chair and not yet decided; and

(b) then put successively questions on any motions made by a Minister of the Crown.

(8) Resolutions of the programming committee—

(a) may be reported from time to time; and

(b) subject to the powers of the Speaker or chair to select the amendments, new clauses and new schedules to be proposed, may include alterations in the order in which specified proceedings on the bill are to be taken.

Drafting amendments in paras (6), (7) and (8).

Deletion of otiose words in para (7)(a).
**Programming sub-committees**

83C.—(1) If a bill is subject to a programme order which commits it to a public bill committee, the order stands referred to the committee and, subject to paragraph (10) of this order, shall be considered by a sub-committee of the committee.

(2) The sub-committee is to be called the programming sub-committee.

(3) The programming sub-committee shall consist of—

(a) the chair or one of the chairs of the committee (who is to be chair of the sub-committee); and

(b) seven members of the committee, nominated by the Speaker.

(4) The quorum of the programming sub-committee is four.

(5) The programming sub-committee shall report to the committee any resolution which it makes about—

(a) the number of sittings to be allotted to the consideration of the bill in the committee;

(b) the allocation of the proceedings to each sitting;

(c) the time at which any proceedings, if not previously concluded, are to be brought to a conclusion;

(d) the date by which the bill is to be reported to the House;

(e) the programming of consideration and third reading.

(6) Proceedings in the programming sub-committee shall be brought to a conclusion not later than two hours after their commencement.

(7) For the purposes of bringing any proceedings to a conclusion in accordance with paragraph (6), the chair shall—

(a) first put forthwith any question already proposed from the chair and not yet been decided; and

(b) then put forthwith successively questions on any motions made by a Minister of the Crown.

(8) Resolutions of the programming sub-committee—
(a) may be reported from time to time; and

(b) subject to the powers of the chair to select the amendments, new clauses and new schedules to be proposed, may include alterations in the order in which specified proceedings are to be taken.

(9) On a motion in the terms of a resolution of the programming sub-committee being made in the committee, any question necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion is to be put not later than half an hour after the commencement start of those proceedings.

(10) A Minister of the Crown may make any motion in a public bill committee which could have been the subject of a resolution of the programming sub-committee; and for the purposes of this order the motion shall be treated as if it were in the terms of a resolution of the programming sub-committee:

Provided that proceedings on such a motion shall lapse if any member of the committee signifies objection to it.

(11) If the provisions of a resolution of the programming subcommittee under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of paragraph (5) are agreed to (with or without modification) by the committee, the provisions (or the provisions as modified) are to have effect as if they were included in the programme order for the bill:

Provided that the chair may allow a sitting at which oral evidence is heard to continue for up to a quarter of an hour beyond the time provided for in the resolution. Provided that at a sitting at which oral evidence is heard the chair may allow proceedings relating to particular witnesses or groups of witnesses to continue for up to a quarter of an hour beyond the time allocated in the resolution and the sitting to continue for up to a quarter of an hour beyond the time provided for in the resolution.

(12) Any resolution of the committee—

(a) proposing an alteration to the date by which the bill is to be reported to the House; or

(b) making a recommendation about the programming of the bill on consideration and third reading;

shall be reported to the House.

(13) If a resolution is reported proposing an alteration to the date by which the bill is to be reported to the House, a supplemental programme motion shall be set down for a day not later than the fifth sitting day after the day when the report was made which may—
(a) give effect to the committee’s proposal;

(b) otherwise alter or supplement the provisions of the original programme of the bill; or

(c) confirm the date set in the original programme order for the bill.

(14) If a resolution is reported making a recommendation about the programming of the bill on consideration and third reading, a supplemental programme motion shall be set down before the consideration of the bill on report which may—

(a) give effect to the committee’s recommendations;

(b) otherwise alter or supplement the provisions of the original programme of the bill; or

(c) confirm the original programme order for the bill.

Drafting amendments in paras (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9).

Amendment in para (11) to provide flexibility for all knives, not just last one.
Programme orders: conclusion end of proceedings in public bill committee or in committee of the whole House.

83D.—(1) This order applies for the purpose of bringing proceedings in public bill committee or in committee of the whole House to a conclusion to an end in accordance with a programme order.

(2) The chair shall put forthwith the following questions (but no others) in the same order as they would fall to be put if this order did not apply—

(a) any question already proposed from the chair;

(b) any question necessary to bring to a decision a question so proposed;

(c) the question on any amendment, new clause or new schedule selected by the chair for separate decision;

(d) the question on any amendment moved or motion made by a Minister of the Crown;

(e) any other question necessary for the disposal of the business to be concluded ended.

(3) On a motion made for a new clause or a new schedule, the chair shall put only the question that the clause or schedule be added to the bill.

(4) If two or more questions would fall to be put under paragraph (2)(d) on successive amendments moved or motions made by a Minister of the Crown, the chair shall instead put a single question in relation to those amendments or motions.

(5) If two or more questions would fall to be put under paragraph (2)(e) in relation to successive provisions of the bill, the chair shall instead put a single question in relation to those provisions, except that the question shall be put separately on any clause of or schedule to the bill which a Minister of the Crown has signified an intention to leave out.

(6) On conclusion At the end of the proceedings in a committee, the chair shall report the bill (or such of the bill’s provisions as were committed to it) to the House without putting any question.

Drafting amendments in Title and paras (1), (2)(e), (3), (5) and (6).
Programme orders: conclusion of proceedings on consideration or third reading.

83E.—(1) This order applies for the purpose of bringing proceedings on consideration and third reading to an end in accordance with a programme order.

(2) The Speaker shall put forthwith the following questions (but no others) in the same order as they would fall to be put if this order did not apply—

(a) any question already proposed from the chair;

(b) any question necessary to bring to a decision a question so proposed;

(c) the question on any amendment, new clause or new schedule selected by the Speaker for separate decision;

(d) the question on any amendment moved or motion made by a Minister of the Crown;

(e) any other question necessary for the disposal of the business to be concluded.

(3) On a motion made for a new clause or a new schedule, the Speaker shall put only the question that the clause or schedule be added to the bill.

(4) If two or more questions would fall to be put under paragraph (2)(d) on successive amendments moved or motions made by a Minister of the Crown, the Speaker shall instead put a single question in relation to those amendments or motions.

Drafting amendments in Title and paras (1), (2) and (3)
Programme orders: conclusion end of proceedings on consideration of Lords amendments.

83F.—(1) This order applies for the purpose of bringing proceedings on consideration of Lords amendments to a conclusion in accordance with a programme order.

(2) The Speaker shall first put forthwith any question already proposed from the chair and not yet decided.

(3) If that question is for the amendment of a Lords amendment, the Speaker shall then put forthwith—

(a) a single question on any further amendments of the Lords amendment moved by a Minister of the Crown; and

(b) the question on any motion made by a Minister of the Crown that this House agrees or disagrees with the Lords in their amendment or (as the case may be) in their amendment as amended.

(4) The Speaker shall then put forthwith—

(a) a single question on any amendments moved by a Minister of the Crown to a Lords amendment; and

(b) the question on any motion made by a Minister of the Crown that this House agrees or disagrees with the Lords in their amendment or (as the case may be) in their amendment as amended.

(5) The Speaker shall then put forthwith the question on any motion made by a Minister of the Crown that this House disagrees with the Lords in a Lords amendment.

(6) The Speaker shall then put forthwith the question that this House agrees with the Lords in all the remaining Lords amendments.

(7) As soon as the House has—

(a) agreed or disagreed with the Lords in any of their amendments; or

(b) disposed of an amendment relevant to a Lords amendment which has been disagreed to,

the Speaker shall put forthwith a single question on any amendments moved by a Minister of the Crown relevant to the Lords amendment.

Drafting amendments in Title and paras (1) and (2).
Programme orders: conclusion and end of proceedings on further messages from the Lords.

83G.—(1) This order applies for the purpose of bringing proceedings on any further message from the Lords to a conclusion to an end in accordance with a programme order.

(2) The Speaker shall first put forthwith any question already proposed from the chair and not yet decided.

(3) The Speaker shall then put forthwith the question on any motion made by a Minister of the Crown which is related to the question already proposed from the chair.

(4) The Speaker shall then put forthwith the question on any motion made by a Minister on or relevant to any of the remaining items in the Lords message.

(5) The Speaker shall then put forthwith the question that this House agrees with the Lords in all of the remaining Lords proposals.

Drafting amendments in Title and paras (1) and (2).
Programme orders: reasons committee

83H.—(1) This order applies in relation to any committee to be appointed to draw up reasons after proceedings have been brought to a conclusion in accordance with a programme order after proceedings on a bill subject to a programme order have ended.

(2) The Speaker shall put forthwith the question on any motion made by a Minister of the Crown for the appointment, nomination and quorum of a committee to draw up reasons and the appointment of its chair.

(3) The committee shall report before the conclusion of the sitting at which it is appointed.

(4) Proceedings in the committee shall be brought to a conclusion not later than half an hour after their commencement.

(5) For the purpose of bringing any proceedings to a conclusion in accordance with paragraph (4), the chair shall—

(a) first put forthwith any question already proposed from the chair and not yet decided; and

(b) then put forthwith successively questions on motions which may be made by a Minister of the Crown for assigning a reason for disagreeing with the Lords in any of their amendments.

(6) The proceedings of the committee shall be reported without any further question being put.

Amendment in para (1) to reflect current practice, which applies SO to all Lords Amendments, not only when knife has fallen.

Drafting amendments in paras (3), (4) and (5).
Programme orders: supplementary provisions
83I.—(1) The provisions of this order apply to proceedings in the House or in committee of the whole House on a bill which is subject to a programme order.

(2) Standing Order No. 15(1) (Exempted business) applies to the proceedings for any period after the moment of interruption allocated to them in accordance with the programme order.

(3) The proceedings may not be interrupted under any Standing Order relating to the sittings of the House.

(4) If, on a day on which the bill has been set down to be taken as an order of the day, a motion for the adjournment of the House an emergency debate under Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates) would, apart from this order, stand over to seven o’clock, four o’clock or three o’clock—

(a) that motion stands over until the conclusion of any proceedings on the bill which, in accordance with the programme order, are to be brought to conclusion at or before that time; and

(b) the bringing to a conclusion an end of any proceedings on the bill which, in accordance with the programme order, are to be brought to a conclusion an end after that the time set by the Speaker is postponed for a period of time equal to the duration of the proceedings on that motion the emergency debate.

(4) If an emergency debate under Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates) takes place on the same day as an application for the debate is made—

(a) the start of the emergency debate shall be postponed until the completion of any proceedings which are, under the terms of a programme order, to be brought to an end at or before the time specified for the beginning of the emergency debate;

(b) where any proceedings would fall to be brought to an end under the terms of a programme order after the time specified for the beginning of the emergency debate, the programme order shall have effect as if it provided for the proceedings (if not previously ended) to be brought to an end after they have been allowed the same length of time as they would have been allowed if the emergency debate had not taken place)

(5) If a day on which the bill has been set down to be taken as an order of the day is one to which a motion for the adjournment of the House under Standing Order No. 24 stands over from an earlier day, the bringing to a conclusion of any proceedings on the bill which, in accordance with the programme order, are to be brought to a conclusion
on that day is postponed for a period equal to the duration of the proceedings on that motion.

(6) No dilatory motion may be made in relation to the proceedings except by a Minister of the Crown; and the question on any such motion is to be put forthwith.

(7) If at any sitting the House is adjourned, or the sitting is suspended, before the expiry end of the period allocated to proceedings under a programme order, no notice is required of a motion made at the next sitting by a Minister of the Crown for varying or supplementing the provisions of the programme order.

Deletion of para (2) because of related changes to SO No. 15(1)

Clarificatory amendments in para (4) and deletion of para (5), to bring provisions in line with SO No. 24.

Drafting amendments in para (7).
General Legislation Committees

84. —(1) The following committees shall be general legislation committees:

(a) second reading committees;

(b) public bill committees;

(c) committees to consider bills on report;

(d) the Scottish Grand Committee;

(e) the Welsh Grand Committee;

(f) the Northern Ireland Grand Committee;

(g) the Regional Affairs Committee;

(h) Delegated Legislation Committees;

(i) the European Committees.

(2) The provisions of standing orders relating to legislation committees shall also apply to Grand Committees and the Regional Affairs Committee, save where otherwise provided in Standing Orders No. A to No. J (Grand Committees) and Standing Order No. 117 (Regional Affairs Committee).

Change ‘General committees’ to ‘Legislation committees’ for clarity.
Public bill committees

84A.—(1) A public bill committee shall be appointed for the consideration of each bill committed to such a committee, subject to paragraphs (4) and (5).

(2) A public bill committee to which a bill is, or certain provisions of a bill are, committed by means of a programme order under Standing Order No. 83A (Programme motions)—

(a) shall have the power to send for persons, papers and records; and

(b) shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

(3) A public bill committee given the power (under paragraph (2) of this order or paragraph (2)(b) of Standing Order No. 63 (Committal of bills not subject to a programme order)) to send for persons, papers and records may hear oral evidence at such meetings as the committee may appoint, and, unless the committee otherwise orders, all such evidence shall be given in public.

(3A) At any meeting of a public bill committee at which oral evidence is to be heard, after any business relating to motions under paragraphs (9) and (10) of Standing Order No. 83C (Programming sub-committees), has ended, the committee shall sit in private until the witnesses are admitted.

(3B) Oral evidence heard by a public bill committee shall be printed published in the official report of the committee’s debates and, subject to the discretion of the chair, any written evidence received by the committee shall be reported to the House, as if it were a select committee, for publication.

(4) A Scottish public bill committee shall be appointed for the consideration of—

(a) each bill certified by the Speaker as relating exclusively to Scotland and committed to a public bill committee, and

(b) each bill committed to a Scottish public bill committee.

(5) The Committee of Selection may not nominate a public bill committee in respect of a private Member’s bill while proceedings in another public bill committee on a private Member’s bill are still active, unless notice of a motion in support of that nomination has been tabled by a Minister of the Crown:

Provided that, if a private Member in charge of a bill for which a public bill committee has been nominated informs the Committee of Selection that he or she does not intend for the time being to proceed with the committee stage of his or her bill, the committee may nominate another public bill committee; but in such cases the first public bill
committee may not meet until the second public bill committee has concluded its proceedings.

Addition to para (2)(b) to reflect current practice (currently provided for in individual programme motions).

Addition in para (3) to remove need for each PBC to resolve to sit in private after the programme motion has been agreed, but with the effect that the public will still have to leave after the Committee’s discussion of the programme.

Addition in para (3) to remove need for each PBC to resolve to publish evidence.

Change of ‘print’ to ‘publish’ in para (3).

Division of para (3) into three separate paragraphs, for clarity.

Additions for neutral gender in proviso to para (5).

Drafting amendment in proviso to para (5).
Chairs of general committees

85.—(1) The chair or chairs of each general committee shall be appointed by the Speaker from the Panel of Chairs.

(2) The Speaker may change the chairs so appointed from time to time.

(3) When more than one chair is appointed to a general committee any of the chairs so appointed may exercise the powers conferred by paragraphs (3) and (4) of Standing Order No. 89 (Procedure in general committees).

(4) The Panel of Chairs, of which three shall be a quorum, shall have power to consider matters of procedure relating to general committees and to report its opinion thereupon to the House from time to time.

(5) Any member of a general committee may, at the request of the chair of the committee, act as chair for not more than a quarter of an hour on any one occasion:

Provided that such member shall not exercise the powers conferred on the chair of a general committee by paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 89 (Procedure in general committees).

Consolidate with SO No. 4 for clarity and ease of reference.
Nominations of general legislation committees

86.—(1) Save in the case of—

(a) the Scottish Grand Committee,

(b) the Welsh Grand Committee,

(c) a committee for the consideration of a bill on report, and

(d) a European Committee,

the Committee of Selection shall nominate not fewer than sixteen nor more than fifty Members to serve on each general legislation committee for the consideration of each bill allocated or referred to it, or for the consideration of instruments (whether or not in draft) referred to it.

(2) In nominating such Members the Committee of Selection shall have regard to the qualifications of those Members nominated and to the composition of the House, and shall have power to discharge Members from time to time and appoint others in substitution for those discharged:

Provided that—

3 (i) for the consideration of any public bill certified by the Speaker as relating exclusively to Scotland or of a public bill (or part of a public bill) ordered to be considered by a Scottish public bill committee, the committee shall be so constituted as to include not fewer than sixteen Members representing Scottish constituencies;

(ii) for the consideration of any public bill relating exclusively to Wales, the committee shall be so constituted as to include all Members sitting for constituencies in Wales;

4 (iii) for the consideration of any bill a draft of which, or of parts of which, has been considered by a committee of this House, the Committee of Selection shall treat a Member’s membership of that committee as one of the qualifications to which it shall have regard.

Amendments in title and para (1) to reflect change of general committees to legislation committees and new SOs on Grand Committees.

Addition to para (1) to include NIGC.

Drafting amendment in para (2)
Deletion of consistently disapplied provision of para (2).
Attendance of law officers and ministers in general legislation committees

87.—(1) The Attorney General, the Advocate General and the Solicitor General, or any of them, being if they are Members of the House, though but not members of a general legislation committee, may take part in the deliberations of the committee, but shall not vote or make any motion or move any amendment other than a motion in the Scottish Grand Committee under Standing Order No. 93 (Scottish Grand Committee (composition and business)) or a motion in the Welsh Grand Committee under Standing Order No. 102 (Welsh Grand Committee (composition and business)) or a motion in the Northern Ireland Grand Committee under Standing Order No. 109 (Northern Ireland Grand Committee (composition and business)) or a motion or an amendment in a European Committee under Standing Order No. 119 (European Committees) or be counted in the quorum, except as otherwise provided under any Standing Order or Order of the House.

(2) In a general legislation committee which is to consider a bill brought in upon a ways and means resolution any Minister of the Crown, being if he or she is a Member of the House, though but not a member of the general legislation committee, may take part in the deliberations of the committee, but shall not vote or make any motion or move any amendment or be counted in the quorum.

Amendments in title and paras (1) and (2) to reflect change of general committees to legislation committees.

Drafting amendments in paras (1) and (2).

Simplification of list of exemptions in para (1).
Meetings of general legislation committees

88.—(1) A general legislation committee to which a bill or other business has been or stands committed shall meet to consider such business on the day and at the hour named by the Member appointed chair of the committee in respect of that business. If the consideration of the business is not completed at that sitting, and subject to the proviso in paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 84A (Public bill committees), the committee shall meet further to consider the business on such days of the week and at such times as may be appointed by the committee:

Provided that—

(i) no general legislation committee shall sit at Westminster, on a day on which the House sits, between the hours of one o’clock and half past three o’clock in the afternoon on Mondays, between the hours of twenty-five minutes past eleven o’clock in the morning and half-past one o’clock in the afternoon on Tuesdays or Wednesdays or between the hours of twenty-five minutes past nine o’clock in the morning and half past eleven o’clock in the morning on Thursdays between 1.00 pm and 3.30 pm on Mondays, between 11.25 am and 1.30 pm on Tuesdays or Wednesdays or between 9.25 am and 11.30 am on Thursdays, and

(ii) a public bill committee shall be adjourned at one o’clock in the afternoon on a Thursday,

except as hereinafter provided.

(2) If a general legislation committee to which the proviso to paragraph (1) of this order applies is not previously adjourned, the chair shall adjourn the committee without putting any question at one o’clock, twenty-five minutes past eleven o’clock or twenty-five minutes past nine o’clock at 1.00 pm, 11.25 am or 9.25 am, as the case may be, save as provided in Standing Order No. 100 (Scottish Grand Committee (sittings)), Standing Order No. 108 (Welsh Grand Committee (sittings)) and Standing Order No. 116 (Northern Ireland Grand Committee (sittings)) [references changed to new amalgamated SOs]:

Provided that—

(i) if, in the opinion of the chair, the proceedings on a bill or other business could be brought to a final conclusion by a short extension of the sitting, he or she may defer adjourning the committee for a quarter of an hour;

(ii) if proceedings under Standing Order No. 36 (Closure of debate) are in progress at the time when the chair is required to adjourn the committee under this paragraph, he or she shall not adjourn the committee until the question for the closure of debate, the question or questions consequent thereon on it and on any further motion as provided in that Standing Order have been decided.
(3) Any general committee may sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

Amendments in title and paras (1) and (2) to reflect change of general committees to legislation committees.

Drafting amendments in para (1).

Addition of adjournment for lunch break on Thursdays in para (1).

Additions for neutral gender and drafting amendment in para (2) proviso.

Deletion of para (3) because of new provision in SO No. 123.
Procedure in general legislation committees

89.—(1) Except as provided in Standing Order No. 93 (Scottish Grand Committee (composition and business)), Standing Order No. 102 (Welsh Grand Committee (composition and business)), Standing Order No. 109 (Northern Ireland Grand Committee (composition and business)), Standing Order No. 117 (Regional Affairs Committee) and Standing Order No. 119 (European Committees) except as otherwise provided under any Standing Order or Order of the House, the quorum of a general legislation committee shall be seventeen or one third of the number of its members excluding the chair, whichever is the less; and in calculating the quorum fractions shall be counted as one.

(2) A legislation committee may not proceed to business unless a quorum is present; and if at any time during the sitting of the committee a quorum shall not be present, the clerk of the committee shall bring this fact to the notice of the chair, who shall suspend the proceedings of the committee until a quorum is present, or adjourn the committee.

(3) In determining whether the requisite number of Members is present to form the quorum the chair shall be counted in the quorum.

(2) The public shall be admitted to a general legislation committee unless the committee otherwise orders.

(3) (a) Any notice of an amendment to a bill which has been committed or referred to a general committee, or of a motion relative to a European Union document or an amendment thereto given under Standing Order No. 119 (European Committees) shall stand referred to the committee, and the chair of a legislation committee shall have the like powers as are given to the Speaker, the Chairman of Ways and Means and either Deputy Chairman respectively under Standing Order No. 32 (Selection of amendments).

(b) Standing Orders No. 29 (Powers of chair to propose question), and No. 36 (Closure of debate) and No. 37 (Majority for closure or for proposal of question) shall apply to general legislation committees, except that the number necessary to render the majority effective for the closure or for the proposal of the question shall be the number prescribed as the quorum by paragraph (1) of this order.

(e) The chair of a general legislation committee shall have the like powers as are given to a chair of a committee of the whole House under the following Standing Orders:

No. 35 (Dilatory motion in abuse of rules of House),

No. 42 (Irrelevance or repetition),
No. 42A (Sub judice), and

No. 68 (Debate on clause or schedule standing part).

(d) The following Standing Orders shall apply to general committees:

No. 124 (Quorum of select committees),
No. 128 (Entry on formal minutes of select committee), and
No. 129 (Formal minutes to be reported).

(4) (7) On a division being called in the House or a committee of the whole House the chair of a general legislation committee shall suspend the proceedings of the committee for such time as will, in his or her opinion, enable Members to vote in the division and return to the committee.

(5) All general committees shall have leave to print and circulate their proceedings with the Vote.

Amendments in title and old paras (1) and (2) and new paras (5), (6) and (7) to reflect change of general committees to legislation committees.

Simplification of list of exemptions in para (1) and clarification of old para (3).

Addition of relevant paras of SO No. 124 (Quorum of select committees) as new paras (2) and (3), with drafting amendments.

Removal of references in new para (5) to merged SO No. 37, in old para (3)(d) to formal minutes (no longer produced) and in old para (5) to proceedings (no longer printed).

Drafting amendment in new paras (5) and (6).

Addition for neutral gender in new para (7).
Second reading committees

90.—(1) A motion, of which at least ten days' notice has been given, may be made by a Minister of the Crown at the commencement of public business, that a public bill be referred to a second reading committee, and the question thereupon shall be put forthwith; and if, on the question being put, not fewer than twenty Members rise in their places and signify their objection thereto, the Speaker shall declare that the noes have it motion is disagreed to:

Provided that no such notice shall be given until the bill has been printed and delivered to the Vote Office published.

(2) A motion, of which at least ten days’ notice has been given, may with the leave of the House be made by the Member in charge of a private Member’s bill at the commencement of public business on any day when private Members’ bills have precedence under the provisions of Standing Order No. 14 (Arrangement of public business) DD (Private Members’ Bills), that the said bill be referred to a second reading committee, and the question thereupon shall be put forthwith. If such a motion be agreed to, any order that the said bill be read a second time which stands on the paper for that or any subsequent day shall be discharged. No such motion shall be made before the eighth Friday on which private Members’ bills have precedence and no such notice shall be given until the bill has been printed and delivered to the Vote Office published.

(3) A second reading committee shall report to the House either that it recommends that the bill ought to be read a second time or that it recommends that the bill ought not to be read a second time, and in the latter case it shall have power to state its reasons for so recommending.

(4) When a second reading committee shall have made a report to the House in respect of a bill referred to it under paragraph (2) above, the bill shall be ordered to be read a second time upon a future day.

(5) Upon a motion being made for the second reading of a bill reported from a second reading committee, the question thereon shall be put forthwith, and may be proceeded with, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

Removal of ambiguity in para (1) over whether Speaker’s decision can be challenged.

Change of ‘print’ to ‘publish’ in proviso to para (1) and in para (2).

Drafting amendments in paras (1) and (2).

Amendment in para (5) to remove the need for the current practice of tabling exemption motions.
SO No. 91 was repealed on 1 November 2006.
Consideration on report of certain bills by a general *legislation* committee.

92.—(1) A bill which has been considered by a second reading committee or by the Scottish Grand Committee in relation to the principle of the bill may be referred for consideration on report to a committee to consider bills on report or to the Scottish Grand Committee, as the case may be, upon a motion made after notice by a Minister of the Crown at the commencement start of public business, and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith; and if, on the question being put, not fewer than twenty Members rise in their places and signify their objection thereto, the Speaker shall declare that the *noes* have it motion is disagreed to.

(2) A committee to consider bills on report shall consist of not fewer than twenty nor more than eighty Members, to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve on the committee for the consideration of each bill referred to it; and in the nomination of such Members, the Committee of Selection shall have regard to their qualifications and to the composition of the House:

Provided that, for the consideration of all public bills relating exclusively to Wales, the committee shall be so constituted as to include all Members sitting for constituencies in Wales.

(3) Any committee to which a bill is referred under this order shall report to the House that it has considered the bill and has made amendments or has made no amendment thereunto, as the case may be; and the bill so reported shall be ordered to be read the third time upon a future day.

Amendment in title to reflect change of general committees to legislation committees.

Deletion of para (2) to mirror deletion of SO No. 86(3)(ii).

Removal of ambiguity in para (1) over whether Speaker’s decision can be challenged.

Drafting amendment in para (1).
A. Grand Committees (composition)
(1) There shall be three general committees called the Scottish Grand Committee, the Welsh Grand Committee and the Northern Ireland Grand Committee.

(2) The Scottish Grand Committee shall consist of all Members representing constituencies in Scotland.

(3) The Welsh Grand Committee shall consist of all Members representing constituencies in Wales, together with not more than five other Members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(4) The Northern Ireland Grand Committee shall consist of all Members representing constituencies in Northern Ireland, together with not more than twenty-five other Members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(5) The Committee of Selection shall have power from time to time to discharge the Members nominated by it and to appoint others in substitution for those discharged.

(6) The quorum of the Scottish Grand Committee and the Northern Ireland Grand Committee shall be ten and the quorum of the Welsh Grand Committee shall be seven, subject in each case to paragraph (4) of Standing Order J (Grand Committees (conclusion of sitting)).

(7) Any Minister of the Crown, being a Member of the House, though not a member of the committee, may take part in the deliberations of a Grand Committee and may make a motion, but shall not vote or be counted in the quorum.

*This reproduces SOs No. 93(1) and (3), No. 102(1), (2) and (4) and No. 109 (1), (2) and (4), without alteration except for deletion of the word “general” in accordance with the change proposed to the nomenclature of general committees in SO No. 84.*
B. Grand Committees (sittings)

(1) A motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown providing (or varying previous provision) for—

(a) the times and places of sittings of a Grand Committee,

(b) the consideration at such sittings of such business as has been referred to the committee,

(c) the taking of oral questions at such sittings,

(d) the hour until which a legislative proposal or matter referred to the committee may be proceeded with,

(e) the holding of short debates under Standing Order No. D (Grand Committees (short debates)) on certain of the days so specified, and

(f) the consideration of substantive motions for the adjournment of the Scottish Grand Committee under Standing Order No. I (Scottish Grand Committee (substantive motions for the adjournment)) on not more than twelve specified days, and

(g) the interruption of proceedings at such hours as may be specified:

and the Speaker shall put forthwith the question on such a motion, which may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(2) A motion under paragraph (1) may provide for—

(a) the Scottish (or Welsh) Grand Committee to sit at Westminster or in (or at specified places in) Scotland (or Wales);

(b) the Northern Ireland Grand Committee to sit at Westminster or, on not more than two specified days, in Northern Ireland at places to be named by the Member appointed chair.

(3) Nothing in this order shall prevent the committee from considering further at a sitting at Westminster business adjourned at a previous sitting in the relevant territory, nor from considering at a sitting in the relevant territory business adjourned at a sitting at Westminster.

(4) The provisions of Standing Order No. 88 (Meetings of general committees), so far as they relate to the naming of a day in respect of business by the Member appointed chair and the committee’s appointment of future days in respect of business not completed at a sitting, shall not apply to a Grand Committee.
(5) In this order and in Standing Order H (Grand Committees (legislative proposals and other matters)) ‘a legislative proposal’ means a proposal for a draft Order in Council relating exclusively to Northern Ireland.

(6) In this order and in Standing Orders No. D (Grand Committees (ministerial statements)) and No. H (Grand Committees (substantive motions for the adjournment)) ‘the relevant territory’ means Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, as the case may be.

(7) Other than as provided in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. I (Scottish Grand Committee (substantive motions for the adjournment)), the government shall determine the precedence of the business appointed for consideration at any sitting of the committee.

This reproduces SOs No. 100(1) and (2) for Scotland, No. 108(1) and (2) for Wales and No. 114 (3) and No. 116 (1) and (2) for Northern Ireland.
C. Grand Committees (questions for oral answer)

(1) Notices of questions for oral answer in—

(a) the Scottish Grand Committee by Scotland Office ministers or Scottish law officers,

(b) the Welsh Grand Committee by Wales Office ministers, or

(c) the Northern Ireland Grand Committee by Northern Ireland Office ministers

may be given by members of the committee in the Table Office.

(2) Notices of questions given under this order shall bear an indication that they are for oral answer in the relevant Grand Committee.

(3) No more than one notice of a question may be given under this order by any member of the committee for each day specified under paragraph (1) of Standing Order B (Grand Committees (sittings)) for the taking of questions.

(4) On any day so specified —

(a) questions shall be taken at the start of the sitting;

(b) no question shall be taken later than half an hour (or in the case of the Scottish Grand Committee, three-quarters of an hour) after the start of proceedings on the first question; and

(c) replies to questions not reached shall be published with the official report of the committee’s debates for that day.

(5) Notices of questions under this order may be given ten sitting days before the question is to be answered save where otherwise provided by a memorandum under paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 22 (Notices of questions, motions and amendments).

Provided that when it is proposed that the House shall adjourn for a period of fewer than four days, any day during that period (other than a Saturday or a Sunday) shall be counted as a sitting day for the purposes of the calculation made under this paragraph.

This reproduces SOs No. 94, No.103 and No. 110, unamended except to reflect the change from printing to publishing in para (4)(c) and drafting changes in para (4).
D. Grand Committees (short debates)

(1) Notices of subjects to be raised in short debates in a Grand Committee, on a day specified in an order made under paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. B (Grand Committees (sittings)), may be given by members of the committee in the Table Office.

(2) Subjects of which notice is given under paragraph (1) of this order must relate to the relevant territory.

(3) Not more than one notice of a subject may be given under this order by any member of the committee for each day specified under paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. B (Grand Committees (sittings)) for the holding of short debates.

(4) On any day so specified such debates shall be held at the start of the sitting or, if the order under paragraph (1) specifies also the taking of questions on that day, immediately after questions.

(5) (a) No Member except the Minister of the Crown replying to the debate shall be called to speak later than half an hour after the start of the first such debate.

(b) The Member who gave notice of the subject and the Minister of the Crown replying to the debate may each speak for five minutes. Other Members may speak for three minutes.

(c) The chair may direct any Member who exceeds the limits in sub-paragraph (b) to resume his seat forthwith.

(6) Notices of subjects under this order may be given ten sitting days before that on which they are sought to be raised:

Provided that when it is proposed that the House shall adjourn for a period of fewer than four days, any day during that period (other than a Saturday or a Sunday) shall be counted as a sitting day for the purposes of the calculation made under this paragraph.

This is the current SOs No. 95, No. 104 and No. 111, unamended, except for drafting changes in paras (1), (2), (4) and (5).
E. Grand Committees (ministerial statements)

(1) The chair of a Grand Committee may permit a Minister of the Crown, whether or not a Member of the House, to make a statement, of which prior notice has been given to him or her, on a matter relating to the relevant territory, and to answer questions on that statement put by members of the committee.

(2) Ministerial statements may be made—

(a) at the start of a sitting, or

(b) if questions are taken or short debates held, immediately after the end of proceedings on them.

(3) Proceedings under this order shall be brought to an end at the discretion of the chair, except that Ministerial statements to the Scottish Grand Committee for the purpose of facilitating the questioning by members of the committee of the Minister of the Crown about a matter relating to his or her official responsibilities so far as they relate to Scotland, which, in the case of a Scottish law officer, shall be as provided in the second column of the relevant sub-paragraph of paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments), in which case proceedings under this order shall be brought to an end either at an hour appointed by an order of the committee, for which a motion may be made without notice by a member of the government immediately before the end of such proceedings, on which motion the question shall be put forthwith, or, if no such motion is made, not later than three-quarters of an hour after their start.

(4) A Minister of the Crown who is not a Member of the House may not make a statement from the body of the committee; and shall not vote, make any motion or be counted in the quorum.

This reproduces SOs No. 96, No. 105 and No. 112, unamended, except for drafting changes in paras (1), (2) and (3).
F. Scottish Grand Committee (bills in relation to their principle)

(1) After any public bill has been first printed, the Speaker shall, if of the opinion that its provisions relate exclusively to Scotland, give a certificate to that effect:

Provided that a certificate shall not be withheld by reason only that the bill—

(a) makes minor consequential amendments of enactments which extend to England and Wales or Northern Ireland; or

(b) amends Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967, Schedule 1 to the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 or Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975.

(2) On the order being read for the second reading of a bill so certified, a motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown (or in the case of a private Member’s bill, by the Member in charge of the bill), ‘That the bill be referred to the Scottish Grand Committee’; and the question on that motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption:

Provided that such a motion may be made by a private Member only with the leave of the House.

(3) A bill so referred to the Scottish Grand Committee shall be considered on a motion, ‘That the Committee has considered the bill in relation to its principle’; and, when the committee has considered that question for a total of two and half hours (whether on one or more than one day), the chair shall put the question necessary to dispose of the motion, and shall then report accordingly to the House (or shall report that the committee has come to no resolution), without any further question being put:

Provided that a Minister of the Crown may, immediately before the motion ‘That the Committee has considered the bill in relation to its principle’ is made, make without notice a motion to extend the time-limit specified in this paragraph; and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith.

(4) A bill in respect of which a report has been made under paragraph (3) above shall be ordered to be read a second time on a future day.

(5) On the order being read for the second reading of a bill to which paragraph (4) above applies, a motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown (or, in the case of a private Member’s bill, by the Member in charge of the bill), ‘That the bill be committed to a Scottish legislation committee’; and the question on such a motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(6) If a motion made under the preceding paragraph is agreed to, the bill shall be deemed to have been read a second time, and shall stand committed to a Scottish public bill committee.
(7) At the end of proceedings on consideration on report of a bill in respect of which a report has been made under paragraph (3) above, or on the order being read for the third reading of such a bill, a motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown (or in the case of a private Member’s bill, by the Member in charge of the bill), ‘That the Bill be referred again to the Scottish Grand Committee’; and the question on such a motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption:

Provided that such a motion may be made by a private Member only with the leave of the House.

(8) A bill so referred again to the Scottish Grand Committee shall be considered on a motion, ‘That the Committee has further considered the bill in relation to its principle’; and, when the committee has considered that question for a total of one and a half hours (whether on one or more than one day), the chair shall put the question necessary to dispose of the motion, and shall then report accordingly to the House (or shall report that the committee has come to no resolution), without any further question being put:

Provided that a Minister of the Crown may, immediately before the motion ‘That the Committee has further considered the bill in relation to its principle’ is made, make without notice a motion to extend the time-limit specified in this paragraph; and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith.

(9) A bill in respect of which a report has been made under paragraph (8) above shall be ordered to be read the third time on a future day.

(10) When a motion shall have been made for the third reading of a bill to which paragraph (9) above applies, the question on that motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

This is the current S.O. No. 97 unamended, except for drafting changes.
F1. Welsh Grand Committee (bills)
(1) A motion, of which at least ten days’ notice has been given, may be made by a
Minister of the Crown at the start of public business, that a public bill be referred to the
Welsh Grand Committee, and the question on that motion shall be put forthwith; and if,
on the question being put, not fewer than twenty Members rise in their places and
signify their objection to the motion, the Speaker shall declare that the noes have it:

Provided that no such notice shall be given until the bill has been published.

(2) The committee shall report to the House either that it recommends that the bill
ought to be read a second time or that it recommends that the bill ought not to be read a
second time, and in the latter case it shall have power to state its reasons for so
recommending.

(3) Upon a motion being made for the second reading of a bill reported from the
committee, the question on that motion shall be put forthwith.

This is the current S.O. No. 106 unamended, except for drafting changes and change in
para (1) to reflect move from printing to publishing.
F2. Northern Ireland Grand Committee (bills in relation to their principle)

(1) On the order being read for the second reading of a public bill relating exclusively to Northern Ireland, a motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown (or in the case of a private Member’s bill, by the Member in charge of the bill), ‘That the bill be referred to the Northern Ireland Grand Committee’; and the question on that motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption:

Provided that such a motion may be made by a private Member only with the leave of the House.

(2) A bill so referred to the Northern Ireland Grand Committee shall be considered on a motion, ‘That the Committee has considered the bill in relation to its principle’; and, when the committee has considered that question for a total of two and a half hours (whether on one or more than one day), the chair shall put the question necessary to dispose of the motion, and shall then report accordingly to the House (or shall report that the committee has come to no resolution), without any further question being put:

Provided that a Minister of the Crown may, immediately before the motion ‘That the Committee has considered the bill in relation to its principle’ is made, make without notice a motion to extend the time-limit specified in this paragraph; and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith.

(3) A bill in respect of which a report has been made under paragraph (2) above shall be ordered to be read a second time on a future day.

(4) When a motion shall have been made for the second reading of a bill to which paragraph (3) above applies, the question on that motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(5) At the end of proceedings on consideration on report of a bill in respect of which a report has been made under paragraph (2) above, or on the order being read for the third reading of such a bill, a motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown (or in the case of a private Member’s bill by the Member in charge of the bill), ‘That the bill be referred again to the Northern Ireland Grand Committee’; and the question on such a motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption:

Provided that such a motion may be made by a private Member only with the leave of the House.

(6) A bill so referred again to the Northern Ireland Grand Committee shall be considered on a motion, ‘That the Committee has further considered the bill in relation to its principle’; and, when the committee has considered that question for a total of one and a half hours (whether on one or more than one day), the chair shall put the question necessary to dispose of the motion, and shall then report accordingly to the House (or
shall report that the committee has come to no resolution), without any further question being put:

Provided that a Minister of the Crown may, immediately before the motion ‘That the Committee has further considered the bill in relation to its principle’ is made, make without notice a motion to extend the time-limit specified in this paragraph; and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith.

(7) A bill in respect of which a report has been made under paragraph (6) above shall be ordered to be read the third time on a future day.

(8) When a motion shall have been made for the third reading of a bill to which paragraph (7) above applies, the question on that motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

This is the current S.O. No. 113 unamended, except for drafting changes.
G. Grand Committees (delegated legislation)

(1) Where—

(a) a Member has given notice of a motion for an humble address to Her Majesty praying that a statutory instrument be annulled, or of a motion of a similar character relating to a statutory instrument or to any other instrument (whether or not in draft) which may be subject to proceedings in the House in pursuance of a statute, or of a motion that the House takes note of a statutory instrument, or

(b) a Minister of the Crown has given notice of a motion to the effect that an instrument (whether or not in draft) upon which proceedings may be taken in pursuance of an Act of Parliament (other than a draft regulatory reform order) be approved,

a motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown to the effect that the instrument be referred to the Scottish or the Northern Ireland Grand Committee; and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, at any hour.

(2) The committee shall consider each instrument referred to it on a motion, ‘That the Committee has considered the instrument’; and the chair shall put any question necessary to dispose of the proceedings on the motion, if not previously disposed of, not later than—

(a) one and a half hours, in the case of the Scottish Grand Committee, or

(b) two and a half hours, in the case of the Northern Ireland Grand Committee,

after the start of proceedings on the motion; and shall then report the instrument to the House without any further question being put:

Provided that in the Northern Ireland Grand Committee a Minister of the Crown may, immediately before the motion ‘That the Committee has considered the instrument’ is made, make without notice a motion to extend to three hours the time-limit specified in sub-paragraph (b) above; and the question on such motion shall be put forthwith.

(3) If any motion is made in the House of the kind specified in paragraph (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this order, in relation to any instrument in respect of which a report has been made to the House in accordance with paragraph (2) of this order, the Speaker shall put forthwith the question on that motion; which may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

This is the provision from SOs No. 98 (Scotland) and No.115 (Northern Ireland), unamended except for drafting changes.
H. Grand Committees (legislative proposals and other matters)

(1) A motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown to the effect that—

(a) a specified matter or matters relating exclusively to Wales be referred to the Welsh Grand Committee,

(b) a legislative proposal or other specified matter relating exclusively to Northern Ireland be referred to the Northern Ireland Grand Committee,

and the question on such a motion shall be put forthwith and may be decided, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(2) The committee shall consider the matter or legislative proposal referred to it on a motion, 'That the committee has considered the matter (or legislative proposal)', and proceedings on the motion, if not previously disposed of, shall stand adjourned at the hour, or at the expiration of the period, specified in an order made under paragraph (1) of Standing Order B (Grand Committees (sittings)).

(3) If the question on the motion specified in paragraph (3) above is agreed to the chair shall report only that the committee has considered the said matter or legislative proposal.

This contains the existing provisions for Wales (S.O. No. 107) and Northern Ireland (S.O. No. 114, paras (1) and (2)), unamended except for drafting changes.
I. Scottish Grand Committees (substantive motions for the adjournment)

(1) On each of the days specified in an order of the House under paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. B (Grand Committees (sittings)) for the consideration of motions for the adjournment of the Scottish Grand Committee, such motions of which notice has been given in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) below shall have precedence.

(2) A member of the committee giving notice of a motion for the adjournment of the committee under this order shall—

(a) also give notice of the subject to which he or she intends to call attention on the motion for the adjournment of the committee, and

(b) give such notice of motion and of the subject in writing not later than ten sitting days before that on which the motion is to be made:

Provided that the subject to which attention is called must relate to Scotland.

(3) The days specified for the consideration of motions for the adjournment of the committee under this order shall be allocated as follows—

(a) six at the disposal of the government;

(b) four at the disposal of the Leader of the Opposition;

and, in respect of parties other than that of the Leader of the Opposition,

(c) one at the disposal of the leader of the largest opposition party; and

(d) one at the disposal of the leader of the next largest opposition party:

Provided that a day specified in an order of the House under paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. B (Grand Committees (sittings)) on which business is to be interrupted five hours or more after the start of the sitting shall, if no business other than that to which this order applies is set down for consideration on that day, be deemed to be two days for the purposes of this order.

(4) For the purposes of this order, the ‘largest’ and ‘next largest’ opposition parties in Scotland shall be those parties, not being represented in Her Majesty’s Government and of which the Leader of the Opposition is not a member, which have the largest and next largest number of Members who represent constituencies in Scotland, and of which not fewer than three Members were elected to the House as members of those parties.

This is the current SO No. 99, unamended except for drafting changes.
J. Grand Committees (end of sitting)

(1) At any sitting of a Grand Committee the chair shall interrupt proceedings (other than on a motion made under paragraph (3) below) at the time specified in relation to the sitting by an order made under paragraph (1) of Standing Order B (Grand Committees (sittings)), or, in the absence of such provision, at 1.00 pm on Mondays, at 11.25 am on Tuesdays or Wednesdays or at 9.25 am on Thursdays, subject to paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 88 (Meetings of general committees).

(2) At the moment of interruption, proceedings under consideration and not disposed of shall stand adjourned, except that proceedings on a motion for the adjournment under Standing Order I (Scottish Grand Committees (substantive motions for the adjournment)) shall lapse.

(3) Save as provided in paragraph (5) below, after the interruption of proceedings, or on the completion of the business appointed for consideration at that sitting, whichever is the earlier, a motion for the adjournment of the committee may be made by a Minister of the Crown, and, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 88 (Meetings of general committees), the chair shall, not later than half an hour after the motion has been made, adjourn the committee without putting any question.

(4) In respect of business taken under paragraph (3) above the quorum of the committee shall be three.

(5) Paragraph (3) of this order shall apply to the Northern Ireland Grand Committee only on a day specified in an order made under paragraph (1) of Standing Order B (Grand Committees (sittings)).

This reproduces the provisions in S.O. Nos. 100(4)–(6) (Scotland), 108(3)–(5) (Wales) and 116(3)–(5) (Northern Ireland), retaining the provision that a half-hour debate takes place in the NIGC only if the motion in the House provides for this. A drafting change is made to the title.
Regional Affairs Committee.

117.—(1) There shall be a general committee called the Regional Affairs Committee, which shall consider any matter relating to regional affairs in England which may be referred to it.

(2) The Committee shall consist of thirteen Members representing English constituencies nominated by the Committee of Selection; and in nominating such Members, the Committee of Selection shall—

(a) have regard to the qualifications of the Members nominated and to the composition of the House; and

(b) have power to discharge Members from time to time, and to appoint others in substitution.

(3) Any Member of the House representing an English constituency, though not nominated to the committee, may take part in its proceedings, but may not make any motion, vote or be counted in the quorum; provided that a Minister of the Crown who is a Member of this House but not nominated to the committee may make a motion as specified in paragraph (10) below.

(4) The quorum of the committee shall be three.

(5) Paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 88 (Meetings of general committees) shall not apply to the committee; except that the proviso to that paragraph shall apply to any sitting at Westminster.

(6) A motion may be made in the House by a Minister of the Crown to specify (or to vary) any or all of the following—

(a) the matter or matters to be referred to the Committee;

(b) the period to be allotted to proceedings on such matters;

(c) when and where (within England) the Committee shall meet;

(d) the hours for the commencement and conclusion of any sitting;

(e) any days when the committee shall meet at Westminster;

and such motion may be moved at any time; and the question thereon shall be put forthwith and may be decided at any hour, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

(7) Where any order made under paragraph (6) above makes no provision for the period to be allotted to the proceedings on any matter or matters which have been
referred to the committee for consideration at a particular sitting, those proceedings shall be brought to a conclusion no later than three hours after their commencement start.

(8) At the commencement start of business at any sitting of the committee, the chair may permit Ministers of the Crown, being Members of the House, to make statements on any matter or matters referred to the committee for consideration at that sitting, and may then permit members of the committee to ask questions thereon on any such statement.

(9) No question on a statement by a Minister of the Crown shall be taken later than one hour after the expiry of a period of one hour from the commencement start of the first such statement, except that the chair may, at his or her discretion, allow such questions to be taken for a further period not exceeding half an hour.

(10) The committee shall, following any such statements and questions, consider each matter referred to it on a motion ‘That the committee has considered the matter’; the chair shall put the question necessary to dispose of the proceedings on each matter at the time, or after the period, specified in accordance with paragraph (6) or paragraph (7) of this order, and the committee shall thereupon then report to the House that it has considered the matter or matters without any further question being put.

(11) Any period allocated to the consideration of any matter or matters shall include any time spent on statements by Ministers of the Crown and questions thereon on them, except when otherwise provided by any order of the House made in accordance with paragraph (6) above.

Amendment in para (1) to reflect change of general committees to legislation committees.

Drafting amendments in paras (6)(b), (7), (8) and (9).

Addition for neutral gender in para (9).
Delegated Legislation Committees

118.—(1) There shall be one or more committees, to be called Delegated Legislation Committees, for the consideration of such instruments (whether or not in draft) as may be referred to them; and those instruments shall be distributed among the committees by the Speaker.

(2) Any Member, not being a member of such a committee, may take part in the deliberations of the committee, but shall not vote or make any motion or move any amendment or be counted in the quorum.

(3) Where a Minister of the Crown has given notice of a motion to the effect that an instrument (whether or not in draft) upon which proceedings may be taken in pursuance of under an Act of Parliament (other than a draft legislative reform order) be approved, the instrument shall stand referred to a Delegated Legislation Committee, unless—

(a) notice has been given by a Minister of the Crown of a motion that the instrument shall not so stand referred, or
(b) the instrument is referred to the Scottish Grand Committee or to the Northern Ireland Grand Committee.

(4) Where a Member has given notice of—

(a) a motion for an humble address to Her Majesty praying that a statutory instrument be annulled, or a motion of a similar character relating to a statutory instrument, or to any other instrument (whether or not in draft) which may be subject to proceedings in the House in pursuance of under a statute, or a motion that the House takes note of a statutory instrument, or
(b) a motion that a measure under the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919 be presented to Her Majesty for her Royal Assent, or a motion relating to an instrument made under such a measure,

a motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown at the commencement of public business, that the instrument be referred to such a committee, and the question on it shall be put forthwith; and if, on the question being put, not fewer than twenty Members rise in their places and signify their objection thereto, the Speaker shall declare that the motion is negatived.

(5) Each committee shall consider each instrument referred to it on a motion, ‘That the committee has considered the instrument’; and the chair shall put any question necessary to dispose of the proceedings on such a motion, if not previously concluded.
ended, when the committee shall have sat for one and a half hours or, in the case of an instrument relating exclusively to Northern Ireland, two and a half hours after the commencement of those proceedings; and the committee shall thereupon report the instrument to the House without any further question being put.

(6) If any motion is made in the House of the kind specified in paragraphs (3) or (4) of this order, in relation to any instrument reported to the House in accordance with paragraph (5) of this order, the Speaker shall put forthwith the question thereon and such question may be decided at any hour, though opposed after the moment of interruption.

Drafting amendments in paras (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6).

Amendment of para (3) to reflect existing practice.

Deletion of Church of England Measures to ensure that they are covered by ‘nod or nothing’.

Removal of ambiguity in para (4) over whether Speaker’s decision can be challenged.

Removal of the provision for a longer time limit for Northern Ireland because of Northern Ireland statutory instruments are not as long as they were when the Assembly was not fully functioning.
European Committees

119.—(1) There shall be three general legislation committees, called European Committees, to which shall stand referred for consideration on motion, unless the House otherwise orders, such European Union documents as defined in Standing Order No. 143 (European Scrutiny Committee) as may be recommended by the European Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

(2) If a motion that specified European Union documents as aforesaid shall not stand referred to a European Committee is made by a Minister of the Crown at the commencement of public business, the question thereon shall be put forthwith. If a Minister of the Crown gives notice of a motion relating to a document for consideration in the chamber on a specified day, that document shall no longer stand referred to a European Committee.

(3) Each European Committee shall consist of thirteen Members nominated by the Committee of Selection in respect of any European Union document which stands referred to it, and the Committee of Selection may nominate the same membership in respect of several documents.

(4) In nominating the members of a European Committee, the Committee of Selection shall have regard to the qualifications of the Members nominated and to the composition of the House; and where practicable it shall nominate at least two members of the European Scrutiny Committee and at least two members of the select committee appointed under Standing Order No. 152 whose responsibilities most closely relate to the subject matter of the document or documents.

(5) The quorum of a European Committee shall be three, excluding the chair.

(6) Any Member, though not nominated to a European Committee, may take part in the committee’s proceedings and may move amendments to any motion made as provided in paragraphs (9) and (10) below, but such Member shall not make any motion, vote or be counted in the quorum; provided that a Minister of the Crown who is a Member of this House but not nominated to the committee may make a motion as provided in paragraphs (9) and (10) below.

(7) The European Committees, and the principal subject matter of the European Union documents to be referred to each, shall be as set out below; and, in making recommendations for further consideration, the European Scrutiny Committee shall specify the committee to which in its opinion the documents ought to be referred; and, subject to paragraph (2) of this order, the documents shall be referred to that committee accordingly—

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<th>European Committees</th>
<th>Principal subject matter</th>
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Matters within the responsibility of the following Departments—

A  Energy and Climate Change, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Transport; Communities and Local Government; Forestry Commission; and analogous responsibilities of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Offices.

B  HM Treasury (including HM Revenue & Customs); Work and Pensions; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; International Development; Home Office; Ministry of Justice (excluding those responsibilities of the Scotland and Wales Offices which fall to European Committee A); together with any matters not otherwise allocated by this Order.

C  Business, Innovation and Skills; Children, Schools and Families Education; Culture, Media and Sport; Health.

(8) The chair may permit a member of the European Scrutiny Committee appointed to the committee under paragraph (4) above to make a brief statement of no more than five minutes, at the beginning of the sitting, explaining that committee’s decision to refer the document or documents to a European Committee.

(9) The chair may permit Ministers of the Crown to make statements and to answer questions thereon put by Members, in respect of each motion relative to a European Union document or documents referred to a European Committee of which a Minister shall have given notice; but no question shall be taken after the expiry of a period of one hour from the commencement of the first such statement the start of the sitting.

Provided that the chair may, if he or she sees fit, allow questions to be taken for a further period of not more than half an hour after the expiry end of that period.

(10) Following the conclusion end of the proceedings under the previous paragraph, the motion referred to therein may be made, to which amendments may be moved; and, if proceedings thereon have not been previously concluded ended, the chair shall interrupt the consideration of such motion and amendments when the committee shall have sat for a period of two and a half hours, and shall then put forthwith successively—

(a) the question on any amendment already proposed from the chair; and

(b) the main question (or the main question, as amended).

The chair shall thereupon report to the House any resolution to which the committee has come, or that it has come to no resolution, without any further question being put.
(11) If any motion is made in the House in relation to any European Union document in respect of which a report has been made to the House in accordance with paragraph (10) of this order, the Speaker shall forthwith put successively—

(a) the question on any amendment selected by him which may be moved;

(b) the main question (or the main question, as amended); and proceedings in pursuance of this paragraph, though opposed, may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business moment of interruption.

(12) With the modifications provided in this order, the following Standing Orders shall apply to European Committees—

No. 85 (Chair of general legislation committees);

No. 88 (Meetings of general legislation committees); and

No. 89 (Procedure in general legislation committees).

Amendments in paras (1) and (12) to reflect change from general committees to legislation committees.

Amendment of para (3) to reflect existing practice.

Amendment in list of Committees to reflect name of Department.

Drafting amendments in paras (9), (10) and (11)(b).

Addition for neutral gender in para (9) proviso.
Business subcommittees.
120.—(1) Whenever an order has been made by the House allocating time to the proceedings of a public bill committee on any bill which has been allocated or committed to it, the order shall stand referred to that committee, and shall be considered by a sub-committee thereof to be called the business sub-committee.

(2) A business sub-committee shall consist of the chair or one of the chairs of the committee (who shall be chair of the sub-committee) and seven members of the committee, to be nominated by the Speaker as soon as may be after such an order has been made; the quorum of the sub-committee shall be four, of whom the chair so nominated shall be one; and the sub-committee shall have power to report from time to time to the committee.

(3) A sub-committee shall report to the committee its resolutions upon—

(a) the number of sittings to be allotted to the consideration of the bill;

(b) the allocation of the proceedings to each sitting; and

(c) the time at which any proceedings, if not previously concluded, shall be brought to an end.

(4) All such resolutions shall be reported to the committee at the commencement of the next sitting of the committee and shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of the committee.

(5) Whenever a sub-committee has made a report to the committee, the Member in charge of the bill may forthwith move 'That this committee do agree with the business sub-committee in its resolution (or resolutions)'; and the question on such a motion shall be put forthwith.

(6) If the question is agreed to, the resolution (or resolutions) shall have effect as though included in the order aforesaid, but if it is negatived the resolution (or resolutions) shall stand re-committed to the business sub-committee.

Drafting amendments in paras (3)(b) and (4).
Nomination of select committees.

121.—(1) Any Member intending to propose that certain Members be members of a select committee, or be discharged from a select committee, shall give notice of the names of Members whom he or she intends so to propose, shall endeavour to ascertain previously whether each such Member will give his or her attendance on the committee, and shall endeavour to give notice to any Member whom he or she proposes to be discharged from the committee.

(2) No motion shall be made for the nomination of members of select committees appointed under the standing orders of this House (with the exception of the Liaison Committee, the Committee of Selection, the Committee on Standards and any Committee established under a temporary standing order), or for their discharge, unless—

(a) notice of the motion has been given at least two sitting days previously, and

(b) (i) in the case of a motion to agree with a report from the Liaison Committee to appoint and nominate Members to a National Policy Statement Committee under Standing Order No. 152H (Planning: national policy statements) the motion is made on behalf of the Liaison Committee by the chair or another member of the committee; or

(ii) in other cases the motion is made on behalf of the Committee of Selection by the chair or another member of the committee.

(2A) Except as otherwise provided in the Standing Orders of this House, or unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to a select committee (other than the Committee of Selection) shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

(2B) Any questions necessary to dispose of the proceedings on a motion under this Order which has been opposed at or after the interruption of business on a preceding day shall be put one hour after the start of those proceedings and a motion under this paragraph may be proceeded with, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

Simplification of appointment provisions (with corresponding change in SO No 152H).

Addition of provision on membership of select committees to avoid the need for repetition in SOs on individual select committees.

Addition of provisions from SO No. 15 for clarity; but also removing provision to allow more than an hour’s debate if proceedings start before the moment of interruption.
Lists of Members serving on select committees

122. Lists shall be fixed in some conspicuous place in the Committee Office and in the lobby of the House of all Members serving on each select committee. The names of all members serving on each select committee shall be published.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>122A</td>
<td>Term limits for chairs of select committees</td>
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Election of select committee chairs

122B.—(1) The chairs of the following select committees shall be elected by the House in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (14) below:

(a) select committees appointed under Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments);

(aa) the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee;

(b) the Environmental Audit Committee;

(c) the Select Committee on Public Administration;

(d) the Committee of Public Accounts;

(da) the Petitions Committee; and

(e) the Procedure Committee.

(2) The day following his or her election at the start of a new Parliament, the Speaker shall communicate to the leaders of each party represented in the House the proportion of chairs of select committees to be elected under this order falling to each such party which would reflect the composition of the House.

(3) If, within a week of the Queen’s Speech, a motion in the name of the leaders of all the parties entitled to one or more chairs of select committees subject to election under this order specifying to which party each such chair is allocated is moved, the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion shall be put not later than one hour after their commencement; proceedings on the motion shall be exempted business and Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) shall not apply.

(4) If a motion to which paragraph (3) above applies also makes changes to Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments) which are consequential on changes to the machinery of government, then the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion shall be put not later than one and a half hours after their commencement; proceedings on the motion shall be exempted business; and Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) shall not apply.

(5) If, on the expiry of two weeks after the Queen’s Speech, no motion in the name of the leaders of all the parties entitled to one or more chairs of select committees subject to election under this order specifying to which party each said chair is allocated has been tabled, the Speaker shall give precedence to a motion tabled thereafter by any Member to allocate chairs under this order and the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) shall apply to proceedings on such a motion.
(6) If the House has agreed a motion allocating chairs to parties, the election of the chairs shall take place in accordance with the remaining provisions of this order.

(7) The ballots shall take place on the next Wednesday at least fourteen days after the approval of the motion allocating chairs to parties.

(8) (a) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House by between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on the day Thursday before the ballot.

(b) Each nomination shall consist of a signed statement made by the candidate declaring his or her willingness to stand for election, accompanied by the signatures of fifteen Members elected to the House as members of the same party as the candidate or ten per cent. of the Members elected to the House as members of that party, whichever is the lower.

(c) Statements may be accompanied by signatures of up to five Members elected to the House as members of any party other than that to which the candidate belongs, or members of no party.

(d) No Member may sign the statement of more than one candidate for chair of the same select committee, and if any Member does so, that signature shall no longer be valid. More signatures than are required under sub-paragraph (b) above may accompany the nomination but any signatures in excess of the required number shall be disregarded for the purposes of this Order unless necessary to substitute for a signature which is not valid.

(e) No Member may be a candidate for the chair of a select committee which has not been allocated to his or her party under paragraph (3) of this order or otherwise, or for which he or she is ineligible under Standing Order No. 122A (Term limits for chairs of select committees).

(f) No Member may be a candidate for the chair of the Committee of Public Accounts unless his or her party is that of the official Opposition.

(g) No Member may be a candidate for more than one chair elected under this order.

(h) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, lists of the candidates and their accompanying signatories shall be published.

(9) Election of chairs of select committees under this order shall be by secret ballot.

(10) Preparatory arrangements for the ballots shall be made under the supervision of the Clerk of the House.
(11) (a) If there is only one candidate for the chair of a select committee, that candidate shall be declared elected without a ballot.

(b) The ballot shall take place in a place appointed by the Speaker.

c) Each Member intending to vote shall be provided with a ballot paper for each select committee bearing the names of the candidates listed in alphabetical order.

d) Members will vote by ranking as many candidates as they wish in order of preference, marking 1 by the name of their first preference, 2 by the name of their second preference, and so on. Any candidate who receives more than half the first preferences shall be elected. If no candidate is so elected, the candidate or candidates with the lowest number of first preferences shall be eliminated and their votes distributed among the remaining candidates according to the preferences on them. If no candidate has more than half the votes, the process of elimination and distribution is repeated, until one candidate has more than half the votes.

e) The ballot shall be open between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm and counting shall take place under arrangements made by the Clerk of the House.

(12) The Speaker shall have power to give directions on any matter of doubt arising from the conduct of a ballot or from an individual ballot paper and to vary the timings given in paragraphs (6) to (11) of this order.

(13) As soon as practicable after the closing of the ballot the results shall be published under the direction of the Speaker.

(14) A chair elected under this order is a member of the committee of which he or she is elected chair.

New sub-para (1)(da) added by the House on 24 February 2015 consequent on agreement of new SO establishing a Petitions Committee.

Additions for neutral gender in paras (2), (8) (b), (e) and (f) and (14).

Drafting amendments in paras (4) and (5).

Deletion in para (5) to give flexibility on the timing of a motion to allocate Chairs to parties.

Changes to paras (7), (8) and (11)(e) to provide for consistency in arrangements for all elections and by-elections for House positions.

Extension of notice period in para (8) to give more time for the practicalities of the preparation of ballots.
Addition to (8)(d) to reflect current practice (and as recommended by Committee in its Fifth Report of Session 2010–12, para 40).
Resignation or removal of chairs of select committees
122C.—(1) In the case of a select committee to which the provisions of Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs) applies, where

(a) the chair has ceased to be a member of the House, or

(b) the chair has given written notice to the Speaker of a wish to resign from the chair, or

(c) the committee has reported a resolution that it has no confidence in the chair in accordance with the terms of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this order

the Speaker shall declare the chair vacant and, as soon as practicable, announce the date of the election for the position of chair of that committee which shall be a Wednesday not fewer than ten sitting days after that announcement.

(2) The election shall be held according to the provisions of paragraphs (2) to (13) of Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs) save that nominations shall be submitted by 12 noon on the day before the ballot.

(3) No motion expressing no confidence in its chair may be made in a committee unless notice of the motion has been circulated to the chair and all members of the committee at least ten sitting days in advance of the meeting at which the motion is made.

(4) A resolution by a committee expressing no confidence in its chair shall not have effect for the purposes of paragraph (1) above unless either

(a) it is agreed by the committee without a division or

(b) the majority of the membership of the committee, including at least two members from the largest party represented on the committee and at least one member from another party, vote in favour of the resolution.

(5) A motion expressing no confidence in the chair may not be made in a committee in the six months following the election of a chair by the House or in the year following a vote on such a motion on that chair.

Changes to paras (1) and (2) to bring by-election arrangements in line with (amended) arrangements for full elections of Committee chairs in SO No. 122B.
Election of Chair of Backbench Business Committee

122D.—(1) (a) The election of the chair of the Backbench Business Committee shall take place at the start of each session on a Wednesday to be determined by the Speaker.

(b) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on the Thursday before the day appointed for election.

(c) No member may be a candidate for the chair of the committee if that Member’s party is represented in Her Majesty’s Government.

(d) Each nomination shall consist of a signed statement made by the candidate declaring their willingness to stand for election, accompanied by the signatures of not fewer than twenty nor more than twenty-five Members, of whom no fewer than ten shall be members of a party represented in Her Majesty’s Government and no fewer than ten shall be members of a party not so represented or of no party.

(e) No Member may sign the statement of more than one candidate.

(f) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, a list of the candidates and their accompanying signatories shall be published.

(g) Arrangements for the election shall follow those set out in paragraphs (9) to (14) of Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs), save that in sub-paragraph (11)(e) the opening hours of the ballot shall be between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm and in paragraph (12) reference to variation of timings shall be read as applying also to the timings in sub-paragraph (b) and (g) of this paragraph this order.

(2) Standing Order No. 122C (Resignation or removal of chairs of select committees) shall apply to the chair of the Backbench Business Committee, save for paragraph (2) of that Order; and any election following a vacancy in the chair shall be held under the provisions of paragraph (1)(b) to (g) above.

Changes to paras (1)(a), (b) and (g) to bring timings into line with other elections and by-elections (as amended).
Sittings of committees

123. All committees, other than committees of the whole House, shall have leave to sit at any time on any day on which the House sits, but may not otherwise sit during any adjournment of the House, without the leave of the House, and such leave shall not be moved for without notice. (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this order, all committees (other than committees of the whole House) and all sub-committees may sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this order does not apply to the Committee of Selection, to the Backbench Business Committee or to the Standing Orders Committee; but those committees may sit at any time on any day on which the House sits.

Simplification, given provisions in SOs on Select Committees.

Committee of Selection, Backbench Business Committee and Standing Orders Committee excluded to maintain current position.
Quorum of select committees.
124.—(1) Except as otherwise provided, the quorum of a select committee shall be three or a quarter of the number of its members, whichever is the greater; and in calculating the quorum fractions shall be counted as one.

(2) Where more than two select committees or sub-committees thereof meet concurrently pursuant to subparagraphs (1)(b) or (1)(ba) of Standing Order No. 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees), the quorum of each shall be two.

(3) A select committee may not proceed to business unless a quorum be present; and if at any time during the sitting of a select committee a quorum shall not be present, the clerk of the committee shall bring this fact to the notice of the chair, who shall thereupon suspend the proceedings of the committee until a quorum be present, or adjourn the committee.

(4) In determining whether the requisite number of Members is present to form the quorum the chair shall be counted. The chair counts in the quorum.

Drafting amendments in paras (2) and (3) and simplification in para (4).
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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Select committees (admission of the public)</td>
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</table>
Withdrawal of Members from meetings of select committees.

126. If any select committee, or sub-committee thereof, considers that the presence at a meeting, or part of a meeting, of that committee to which the public are not admitted of any specified Member of the House not nominated to that committee would obstruct the business of the committee, it shall have power to direct such Member to withdraw forthwith; and the Serjeant at Arms shall act on such instructions as he may receive from the chair of the committee in pursuance of under this order.
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<tr>
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<td>Withdrawal of documents before select committee</td>
</tr>
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<td>128</td>
<td>Entry on formal minutes of select committee</td>
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</table>
Formal minutes to be reported published
129. The formal minutes of a select committee shall be reported to the House during the session to which they relate, unless the committee proposes to bring them up with a report in a following session of the same Parliament. The formal minutes of a select committee may be published without first being reported to the House.

Redraft and amendment to title to reflect existing practice.
130. The names of Members present at each sitting of a select committee shall be entered on the record of the evidence, if any.

Obsolete.
Entry of questions asked

131. To every question or series of questions asked of a witness in the proceedings of a select committee, there shall be prefixed the name of the inquiring Member.

Obsolete.
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<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Administration of oath in select committee</td>
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</table>
Power to report opinion and observations
133. Every select committee shall have leave to report to the House its opinion and observations upon any matters referred to it for its consideration within its order of reference, together with the evidence taken before it, and also to make a special report of any matters which it may think fit to bring to the notice of the House.

Drafting amendment to reflect current practice.
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<th>SO No.</th>
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<td>135</td>
<td>Witnesses and evidence (select committees)</td>
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<td>136</td>
<td>Publication of evidence (select committees)</td>
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</table>
Select committees (adjournment of the House)
137. Whenever the House stands adjourned for more than two days, and any select committee having power to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House shall have agreed to a report, or shall have resolved that its formal minutes should be printed or that the evidence taken before it or before any sub-committee appointed by it or any papers laid before it should be reported to the House and printed published, it shall have power to direct the printing publication of such report, minutes or papers, and such printing publication shall be under the authority of the House; and any such reports, minutes or papers shall be deemed to have been reported to the House and shall be reported when the House next sits.

Deletion to reflect change to SO No. 123, on sittings of committees during adjournment of the House.

Change of 'printing' to 'publication' to reflect current practice.

Deletion of references to formal minutes to reflect current practice.
Select committees: power to work with other committees

137A.—(1) Any select committee or sub-committee with power to send for persons, papers and records shall have power—

(a) to communicate its evidence to any other select committee or sub-committee of either House of Parliament or to the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales or the Northern Ireland Assembly or to any of their committees; provided that evidence from the National Audit Office shall first have been agreed between that Office and the government department or departments concerned;

(b) to meet concurrently with any committee or sub-committee of either House of Parliament for the purpose of deliberating or taking evidence;

(ba) to agree with any other select committee or subcommittee of this House on the exercise of any power which each of those committees, or sub-committees may separately have to appoint specialist advisers, to authorise witnesses to publish written evidence submitted by them, or to adjourn from place to place;

(c) to meet concurrently with any other select committee of this House for the purpose of considering a draft report, and to agree amendments to any such draft report; and

(d) to agree in the choice of a chair for any concurrent meetings.

(2) Where two or more select committees have agreed reports to the House in identical terms, those reports may be published as a joint report.

(3) The Welsh Affairs Committee may invite members of any specified committee of the National Assembly for Wales to attend and participate in its proceedings (but not to vote).

Addition in para (1)(c) to allow committees meeting jointly to agree amendments to a draft report (such a draft report would still need to be agreed separately by each committee before it could be published as a joint report under para (2)).
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<td>138</td>
<td>Members (attendance at Lords select committees)</td>
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Administration Committee

139.—(1) There shall be a select committee, to be called the Administration Committee, to consider the services provided for and by the House and to make recommendations thereon to the House of Commons Commission or to the Speaker. Any such recommendation whose implementation would incur additional expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Administration shall also be considered by the Finance and Services Committee.

(2) The committee shall make rules and give directions to Officers of the House in respect only of such administrative matters as may from time to time be determined by the Speaker or by the House of Commons Commission.

(3) The committee shall consist of not more than sixteen Members, of whom five shall be a quorum.

(4) The committee shall have power—

(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time;

(b) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee’s order of reference; and

(c) to communicate its evidence to the House of Commons Commission.

(5) The committee shall have power to appoint subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the committee and to delegate to such subcommittees any of the powers delegated to the committee under paragraph (2) above.

(6) Any such sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place and to report from time to time its formal minutes, and shall have a quorum of three.

(7) The committee and any sub-committee appointed by it shall have the assistance of the Officers of the House appropriate to the matters under consideration.

(8) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

Change to paragraph (1) to reflect the practice of the Administration Committee in looking at matters relating to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members as well as that for House of Commons: Administration.
Drafting changes in paras (1), (2) and (7).

Deletion from paras (4) and (6) because of change of SO No. 123.

Deletion of para (8) because of addition to SO No. 121.
Joint Committee on Consolidation, &c., Bills
140.—(1) There shall be a select committee, to consist of twelve Members, to join with the committee appointed by the Lords as the Joint Committee on Consolidation, &c., Bills to consider—

(a) consolidation bills, whether public or private;

(b) Statute Law Revision Bills;

(c) bills prepared pursuant to under the Consolidation of Enactments (Procedure) Act 1949, together with any memoranda laid pursuant to under that Act and any representations made with respect thereto;

(d) bills to consolidate any enactments with amendments to give effect to recommendations made by one or both of the Law Commissions, together with any report containing such recommendations;

(e) bills prepared by one or both of the Law Commissions to promote the reform of the statute law by the repeal, in accordance with Law Commission recommendations, of certain enactments which (except in so far as their effect is preserved) are no longer of practical utility, whether or not they make other provision in connection with the repeal of those enactments, together with any Law Commission report on any such bill; and

(f) any Order in Council laid or laid in draft before the House where an affirmative resolution is required before it is made, or is a condition of its continuance in operation, and which but for the provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 1974 would, in the opinion of the committee, have been enacted by a consolidation bill, whether public or private, or by a Statute Law Revision Bill.

(2) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records; and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

(3) Two shall be the quorum of the committee.

(4) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

Drafting amendments in para (1)(c).
Deletion of obsolete para (1)(f).
Deletion from para (2) because of change of SO No. 123.
Deletion of para (4) because of addition to SO No. 121.
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<td>141</td>
<td>Regulatory Reform Committee</td>
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<td>Localism Act 2011, etc.: scrutiny of certain orders and draft orders</td>
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except for deletion of language in para (10) of SO No. 141 on Members remaining for length of Parliament, because of addition to SO No. 121, and from para (11)(a) of SO No. 141 on power to sit notwithstanding adjournment of the House, because of change to SO No. 123.
European Scrutiny Committee

143.—(1) There shall be a select committee, to be called the European Scrutiny Committee, to examine European Union documents and—

(a) to report its opinion on the legal and political importance of each such document and, where it considers appropriate, to report also on the reasons for its opinion and on any matters of principle, policy or law which may be affected;

(b) to make recommendations for the further consideration of any such document pursuant to Standing Order No. 119 (European Committees); and

(c) to consider any issue arising upon any such document or group of documents, or related matters.

The expression ‘European Union document’ in this order and in Standing Order No. 16 (Proceedings under an Act or on European Union documents), No. 89 (Procedure in general committees) and No. 119 (European Committees) means—

(i) any proposal under the Community Treaties for legislation by the Council or the Council acting jointly with the European Parliament;

(ii) any document which is published for submission to the European Council, the Council or the European Central Bank;

(iii) any proposal for a common strategy, a joint action or a common position under Title V of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council or to the European Council;

(iv) any proposal for a common position, framework decision, decision or a convention under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council;

(v) any document (not falling within (ii), (iii) or (iv) above) which is published by one Union institution for or with a view to submission to another Union institution and which does not relate exclusively to consideration of any proposal for legislation;

(vi) any other document relating to European Union matters deposited in the House by a Minister of the Crown.

(2) The committee shall consist of sixteen Members.

(3) The committee and any sub-committee appointed by it shall have the assistance of the Counsel to the Speaker.
(4) The committee shall have power to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee’s order of reference.

(5) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time.

(6) The quorum of the committee shall be five.

(7) The committee shall have power to appoint subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the committee.

(8) Every such sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report to the committee from time to time.

(9) The committee shall have power to report from time to time the evidence taken before such sub-committees.

(10) The quorum of every such sub-committee shall be two.

(11) The committee shall have power to seek from any committee specified in paragraph (12) of this order its opinion on any European Union document, and to require a reply to such a request within such time as it may specify.

(12) The committees specified for the purposes of this order are those appointed under Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments) including any sub-committees of such committees, the Select Committee on Public Administration, the Committee of Public Accounts, and the Environmental Audit Committee.

(13) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

Drafting amendment in para (1)(b).

Deletion from paras (5) and (8) because of change of SO No. 123.

Deletion of para (13) because of addition to SO No. 121.
Finance and Services Committee
144.—(1) There shall be a select committee, to be called the Finance and Services Committee, to consider expenditure on and the administration of services provided from the Estimates for the House of Commons and—

(a) with the assistance of the Management Board, to prepare the Estimates for House of Commons: Administration for submission to the House of Commons Commission;

(b) with the assistance of the Accounting Officer, to prepare the Estimates for House of Commons: Members for submission to the Members Estimate Committee;

(c) to monitor the financial performance of the House Administration; and

(d) to report to the House of Commons Commission and the Members Estimate Committee or the Speaker on the financial and administrative implications of recommendations made to them by other Committees of the House.

(2) The committee shall consist of not more than eleven Members.

(3) The committee shall be assisted by the Accounting Officer and by other officials of the House appropriate to the matters under consideration.

(4) The committee shall have power—

(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time; and

(b) to communicate its evidence to the House of Commons Commission or the Members Estimate Committee as appropriate.

(5) Unless the House otherwise orders, all Members nominated to the committee shall continue to be members of the committee for the remainder of the Parliament.

Change of name to reflect remit of committee more accurately
Drafting amendment in para (3).
Deletion from para (4) because of change of SO No. 123.
Deletion of para (5) because of addition to SO No. 121.
Liaison Committee
145.—(1) A select committee shall be appointed, to be called the Liaison Committee—

(a) to consider general matters relating to the work of select committees,

(b) to give such advice relating to the work of select committees as may be sought by the House of Commons Commission, and

(c) to report to the House its choice of select committee reports to be debated, determine business to be taken, on such days as may be appointed by the Speaker in pursuance of paragraph 45 of Standing Order No. 10 (Sittings in Westminster Hall).

(2) The committee may also hear evidence from the Prime Minister on matters of public policy.

(3) The committee shall report its recommendations as to the allocation of time for subjects of consideration by the House of the estimates on any day or half day which may be allotted for that purpose; and upon a motion being made that the House agrees with any such report the question shall be put forthwith and, if that question is agreed to, the recommendations shall have effect as if they were orders of the House:

Proceedings in pursuance of under this paragraph, though opposed, may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed business moment of interruption.

(4) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, and to report from time to time.

(5) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

(6) The committee shall have power to appoint two subcommittees, one of which shall be a National Policy Statements sub-committee.

(7) A National Policy Statements sub-committee—

(a) shall be composed of—

(i) those members of the committee who are members of the Communities and Local Government, Energy and Climate Change, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Transport and Welsh Affairs Committees; and

(ii) up to two other members of the committee, one of whom shall be appointed chair of the subcommittee;
(b) shall report to the committee on the use of the committee’s powers under paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 152H (Planning: national policy statements); and

(c) may report to the committee on matters relating to national policy statements under the Planning Act 2008.

(8) Each sub-committee shall have—

(a) a quorum of three; and

(b) power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, and to report to the committee from time to time.

(9) The committee shall have power to report from time to time the minutes of evidence taken before any sub-committee.

(10) The quorum of the committee shall be as provided in Standing Order No. 124 (Quorum of select committees), save that for consideration of a report from a National Policy Statements sub-committee under sub-paragraph (7)(b) the quorum shall be three.

Amendment in para (1)(c) consequent on agreement to revised Standing Order No. 10 proposed in Committee’s report on Business in Westminster Hall.

Drafting amendments in paras (1)(c) and (3).

Addition in para (3) to reflect existing practice.

Deletion from paras (4) and (8)(b) because of change of SO No. 123.

Deletion of para (5) because of addition to SO No. 121.
NO CHANGE TO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Select Committee on Public Administration</td>
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<td>147</td>
<td>Procedure Committee</td>
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<td>148</td>
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<tr>
<td>148A</td>
<td>Committee of Privileges</td>
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<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Committee on Standards</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

except for deletion of para on Members remaining for length of Parliament, because of addition to SO No. 121, and of provisions to sit during adjournment of the House, because of change to SO No. 123.
Lay members of the Committee on Standards: appointment, etc..

149A.—(1) Lay members shall be appointed to the Committee on Standards by a resolution of the House on a motion made under the provisions of this order and shall remain as lay members in accordance with the provisions of this order.

(2) No person may be first appointed as a lay member if that person is or has been a Member of this House or a Member of the House of Lords; and any person so appointed shall cease to be a lay member upon becoming a Member of this House or of the House of Lords.

(3) No person may be appointed as a lay member unless that person has been selected on the basis of a fair and open competition.

(4) A person appointed as a lay member may resign as a lay member by giving notice to the House of Commons Commission.

(5) A person appointed as a lay member shall be dismissed from that position only following a resolution of the House, after the House of Commons Commission has reported that it is satisfied that the person should cease to be a lay member; and any such report shall include a statement of the Commission’s reasons for its conclusion.

(6) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2), (4) and (5) of this order, a person appointed as a lay member shall continue as a lay member for the remainder of the Parliament in which that person was first appointed.

(7) A person first appointed as a lay member who has been a lay member for the remainder of one Parliament may be reappointed by a resolution of the House in the subsequent Parliament, and the provisions of paragraph (3) of this order shall not apply to any such re-appointment. The period of reappointment shall be specified in the resolution of the House for re-appointment and shall not exceed two years from the dissolution of the Parliament in which the person was first appointed as a lay member, and a resolution under this paragraph shall cease to have effect on the dissolution of the Parliament in which the resolution of the House for reappointment was made.

(8) No person may be re-appointed as a lay member other than in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (7) of this order.

(9) No motion may be made under the provisions of this order unless—

(a) notice of the motion has been given at least two sitting days previously, and

(b) the motion is made on behalf of the House of Commons Commission by a Member of the Commission.
(10) The Speaker shall put the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on motions made under the provisions of this order not later than one hour after the commencement of those proceedings.

(11) Business to which this order applies may be proceeded with at any hour, though opposed, after the moment of interruption.

Drafting amendment in paras (10) and 11.
Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

150.—(1) There shall be an Officer of this House, called the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who shall be appointed by the House.

(2) The principal duties of the Commissioner shall be—

(a) to maintain the Register of Members’ Financial Interests and any other registers of interest established by the House, and to make such arrangements for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of those registers as are approved by the Committee on Standards or an appropriate sub-committee thereof;

(b) to provide advice confidentially to Members and other persons or bodies subject to registration on matters relating to the registration of individual interests;

(c) to advise the Committee on Standards, its sub-committees and individual Members on the interpretation of any code of conduct to which the House has agreed and on questions of propriety;

(d) to monitor the operation of such code and registers, and to make recommendations thereon to the Committee on Standards or an appropriate sub-committee thereof; and

(e) to investigate, if he she thinks fit, specific matters which have come to his her attention relating to the conduct of Members and to report to the Committee on Standards or to an appropriate sub-committee thereof, unless the provisions of paragraph (4) apply.

(3) In determining whether to investigate a specific matter relating to the conduct of a Member the Commissioner shall have regard to whether in his her view there is sufficient evidence that the Code of Conduct or the rules relating to registration or declaration of interests may have been breached to justify taking the matter further.

(4) No report shall be made by the Commissioner—

(a) in any case where the Member concerned has agreed that he or she has failed to register or declare an interest, if it is the Commissioner’s opinion that the interest involved is minor, or the failure was inadvertent, and the Member concerned has taken such action by way of rectification as the Commissioner may have required within any procedure approved by the Committee for this purpose; and

(b) in any case involving parliamentary allowances, or the use of facilities or services, if the Commissioner has with the agreement of the Member concerned referred the matter to the relevant Officer of the House for the purpose of
securing appropriate financial reimbursement, and the Member has made such reimbursement within such period of time as the Commissioner considers reasonable.

(5) The Commissioner may at any time in the course of investigating a complaint, and if so requested by the Committee on Standards shall, appoint an Investigatory Panel to assist him or her in establishing the facts relevant to the investigation.

(6) An Investigatory Panel shall—

(a) consist of the Commissioner, who shall be Chair of the Panel, and two assessors, one of whom shall be a legally qualified person appointed by the Commissioner and the other shall be a Member, who shall not be a member of the Committee on Standards, appointed by the Speaker; and

(b) meet in private.

(7) The Commissioner—

(a) shall determine the procedures of the Panel, subject to the provisions of this order; and

(b) may appoint counsel for the purpose of assisting the Panel.

(8) Any report that the Commissioner may have made to the Committee on Standards in relation to the complaint before the appointment of the Panel shall be made available to the Panel by the Committee.

(9) Any Member who is the subject of the complaint under investigation shall, if he or she so requests, be heard by the Panel; may call witnesses; and may examine other witnesses.

(10) When the Panel has completed its proceedings—

(a) the Commissioner shall report as in paragraph (2)(e);

(b) the legal assessor shall report to the Committee on Standards his or her opinion as to the extent to which its proceedings have been consistent with the principles of natural justice; and

(c) the Member assessor may report to the Committee on Standards his or her opinion as to the extent to which its proceedings have had regard to the customs and practice of the House and its Members.

(11) The Commissioner shall report each year to the House on the exercise by him or her of his or her functions.
(12) The Commissioner shall have leave to publish from time to time—

(a) information and papers relating to—

(i) matters resolved in accordance with paragraph (4) of this order; and

(ii) complaints not upheld;

And

(b) information about complaints received and matters under investigation.

(13) The Commissioner may be dismissed only following a resolution of the House, moved for by a Member of the House of Commons Commission, after the Committee on Standards has reported to the House that it is satisfied that the Commissioner is unfit to hold his her office or unable to carry out his her functions; and any such report shall include a statement of the Committee’s reasons for its conclusion.

Paras (2)(e), (3), (5), (11) and (13), amend to 'she' and 'her' to reflect gender of officeholder.

Additions for neutral gender in paras (4(a), (9) and (10)(a) and (b).

Drafting amendment in para (4)(b).
Statutory Instruments (Joint Committee).
151.—(1) A select committee shall be appointed to join with a committee appointed by the Lords to consider—

(A) every instrument which is laid before each House of Parliament and upon which proceedings may be or might have been taken in either House of Parliament, being—

(a) a statutory instrument, or a draft statutory instrument;

(b) a scheme, or an amendment of a scheme, or a draft thereof, requiring approval by statutory instrument;

(c) any other instrument (whether or not in draft), where the proceedings in pursuance of an Act of Parliament are proceedings by way of an affirmative resolution; or

(d) an order subject to special parliamentary procedure;

but excluding any remedial order or draft remedial order under Schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act 1998, any draft order proposed to be made under Part 1 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, any draft order laid before the House under or by virtue of section 7 or 19 of the Localism Act 2011 or section 5E of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and any subordinate provisions order made or proposed to be made under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001;

(B) every general statutory instrument not within the foregoing classes, and not within paragraph (10) of this order, but not including any Scottish statutory instrument or any statutory instrument made by the Welsh Ministers unless it is required to be laid before Parliament or either House of Parliament and not including measures under the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919 and instruments made under such measures:

with a view to determining whether the special attention of the House should be drawn to it on any of the following grounds—

(i) that it imposes a charge on the public revenues or contains provisions requiring payments to be made to the Exchequer or any government department or to any local or public authority in consideration of any licence or consent or of any services to be rendered, or prescribes the amount of any such charge or payment;

(ii) that it is made in pursuance of any enactment containing specific provisions excluding it from challenge in the courts, either at all times or after the expiration of a specific period;
(iii) that it purports to have retrospective effect where the parent statute confers no express authority so to provide;

(iv) that there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in the publication or in the laying of it before Parliament;

(v) that there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in sending a notification under the proviso to section 4(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, where an instrument has come into operation before it has been laid before Parliament;

(vi) that there appears to be a doubt whether it is *intra vires* or that it appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the statute under which it is made;

(vii) that for any special reason its form or purport calls for elucidation;

(viii) that its drafting appears to be defective;

or on any other ground which does not impinge on its merits or on the policy behind it; and to report its decision with the reasons thereof in any particular case.

(2) The quorum of the committee shall be two.

(3) The committee shall have power to appoint one or more sub-committees severally to join with any sub-committee or sub-committees appointed by the committee appointed by the Lords; and to refer to such sub-committee or sub-committees any of the matters referred to the committee.

(4) The committee and any sub-committee appointed by it shall have the assistance of the Counsel to the Speaker and, if their Lordships think fit, of the Counsel to the Lord Chairman of Committees.

(5) The committee shall have power to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House and to report from time to time, and any sub-committee appointed by it shall have power to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

(6) The committee and any sub-committee appointed by it shall have power to require any government department concerned to submit a memorandum explaining any instrument which may be under its consideration or to depute a representative to appear before it as a witness for the purpose of explaining any such instrument.
(7) The committee and any sub-committee appointed by it shall have power to take evidence, written or oral, from Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, relating to the printing and publication of any instrument.

(8) The committee shall have power to report to the House from time to time any memorandum submitted to it or other evidence taken before it or any sub-committee appointed by it from any government department in explanation of any instruments.

(9) It shall be an instruction to the committee that before reporting that the special attention of the House be drawn to any instrument the committee do afford to any government department concerned therewith an opportunity of furnishing orally or in writing to it or to any sub-committee appointed by it such explanations as the department think fit.

(10) It shall be an instruction to the committee that it shall consider any instrument which is directed by Act of Parliament to be laid before and to be subject to proceedings in this House only, being—

(a) a statutory instrument, or a draft of a statutory instrument;

(b) a scheme, or an amendment to a scheme, or a draft thereof, requiring approval by statutory instrument; or

(c) any other instrument (whether or not in draft), where the proceedings in pursuance of an Act of Parliament are proceedings by way of an affirmative resolution; and that it have power to draw such instruments to the special attention of the House on any of the grounds on which the Joint Committee is empowered so to draw the special attention of the House;

and that in considering any such instrument the committee do not join with the committee appointed by the Lords.

(11) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

Drafting amendments in paras (1)(A), (1)(A)(c) and (1)(B)(ii).

Deletions from para (5) because of change of SO No. 123.

Deletion in para (7) to reflect current practice.

Deletion of para (11) because of addition to SO No. 121.
Select committees related to government departments

152.—(1) Select committees shall be appointed to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the principal government departments as set out in paragraph (2) of this order and associated public bodies.

(2) The committees appointed under paragraph (1) of this order, the principal departments of government with which they are concerned and the maximum numbers of each committee shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Committee</th>
<th>Principal government departments concerned</th>
<th>Maximum members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Business, Innovation and Skills</td>
<td>Department for Business, Innovation and Skills</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Communities and Local Government</td>
<td>Department for Communities and Local Government</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Culture, Media and Sport</td>
<td>Department for Culture, Media and Sport</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Defence</td>
<td>Ministry of Defence</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Education</td>
<td>Department for Education</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Energy and Climate Change</td>
<td>Department of Energy and Climate Change</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</td>
<td>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Health</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Home Affairs</td>
<td>Home Office</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 International Development</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12 Justice  
Ministry of Justice (including the work of staff provided for the administrative work of courts and tribunals, but excluding consideration of individual cases and judicial appointments, and excluding the work of the Scotland and Wales Offices and of the Advocate General for Scotland); and administration and expenditure of the Attorney General's Office, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Government Legal Department, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office (but excluding individual cases and judicial appointments and advice given within government by Law Officers).

13 Northern Ireland Affairs  
Northern Ireland Office, including relations with the Northern Ireland Assembly; administration and expenditure of the Crown Solicitor's Office (but excluding individual cases and advice given by the Crown Solicitor); and other matters within the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (but excluding the expenditure, administration and policy of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Northern Ireland and the drafting of legislation by the Office of the Legislative Counsel).

14 Science and Technology  
Government Office for Science

15 Scottish Affairs  
Scotland Office (including (i) relations with the Scottish Parliament and (ii) administration and expenditure of the offices of the Advocate General for Scotland (but excluding individual cases and advice given within government by the Advocate General)).

16 Transport  
Department for Transport

17 Treasury  
Treasury, HM Revenue & Customs

18 Welsh Affairs  
Wales Office (including relations with the National Assembly for Wales)

19 Work and Pensions  
Department for Work and Pensions.

(3) Each select committee appointed under this order shall have the power to appoint a sub-committee.

(4) Select committees appointed under this order shall have power—
(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time;

(b) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee’s order of reference; and

(c) to report from time to time the evidence taken before sub-committees, and the formal minutes of sub-committees; and the sub-committees appointed under this order shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, to report from time to time their formal minutes, and shall have a quorum of three.

(5) Unless the House otherwise orders, all Members nominated to a committee appointed under this order shall continue to be members of that committee for the remainder of the Parliament.

(6) If a motion in the name of a Minister of the Crown makes changes to paragraph (2) of this Order which are consequential on changes to the machinery of government, then the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion shall be put not later than one and a half hours after their commencement; proceedings may continue, though opposed, after the moment of interruption; and Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) shall not apply.

Addition to Justice Committee to make clear that scrutiny of non-judicial appointments is within its remit, and change to Justice Committee to reflect renaming of Treasury Solicitor’s Department.

Amendment to Northern Ireland Committee terms of reference to bring into line with other devolved committees and to delete responsibilities that no longer fall to NIO.

Addition of provision (taken from SO No. 122B(4)) to simplify procedure on changes following machinery of government changes.

Deletions from para (4) because of change of SO No. 123.

Deletion of para (5) because of addition to SO No. 121.
NO CHANGE TO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>152A</td>
<td>Environmental Audit Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152B</td>
<td>Human rights (Joint Committee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>152C</td>
<td>Tax law rewrite (Joint Committee)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

except for deletion of para on Members remaining for length of Parliament, because of addition to SO No. 121, and of provisions to sit during adjournment of the House, because of change to SO No. 123.
House of Commons Members Estimate Committee.

152D.—(1) There shall be a committee of this House, called the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee.

(2) The members of the committee shall be those Members who are at any time members of the House of Commons Commission pursuant to section 1 of the House of Commons (Administration) Act 1978; the Speaker shall be chair of the committee; and three shall be the quorum of the committee.

(3) The functions of the committee shall be—

(a) to agree the Estimates for House of Commons: Members;

(b) to codify and keep under review the provisions of the resolutions of this House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members;

(c) to modify those provisions from time to time as the committee may think necessary or desirable in the interests of clarity, consistency, accountability and effective administration, and conformity with current circumstances;

(d) to provide advice, when requested by the Speaker, on the application of those provisions in individual cases;

(e) to carry out the responsibilities conferred on the Speaker by the resolution of the House of 5 July 2001 relating to Members’ Allowances, Insurance, &c.

(4) Paragraph (3)(c) above does not empower the committee—

(a) to create a new form of charge on the Estimate for House of Commons: Members; or

(b) to increase any rate of charge or payment determined by resolution of this House.

(5) The committee shall report to the House from time to time, and in any case not less than once a year, the provisions of the resolutions of this House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members, as codified and modified pursuant to paragraph (3) of this order.

(6) The committee shall have power to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

Drafting amendments in paras (2) and (5).
Deletion of para (6) because of change to SO No. 123.
152E.—(1) The Committee of Selection may propose that certain Members be recommended to the Prime Minister for appointment to the Intelligence and Security Committee under section 10 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994.

(2) No Motion may be made for the House to agree to a proposal under this order unless—

(a) notice of it has been given at least two sitting days previously; and

(b) it is made on behalf of the Committee of Selection by the chair or another member of the committee.

(3) Paragraph (1)(c) of Standing Order No. 15 (Exempted business) shall apply to any motion made under this Order.

Delete because procedure for nomination of members of the Committee was changed by the Justice and Security Act 2013; the current Standing Order was therefore not used in the last nomination.
Standing Order No. 152F expired in April 2010

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<td>152G</td>
<td>Committee on Members’ expenses</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

except for deletion of para (3) on Members remaining for length of Parliament, because of addition to SO No. 121, and of provisions to sit during adjournment of the House, because of change to SO No. 123.
Planning: national policy statements
152H.—(1) Whenever a proposal for a national policy statement is laid before this House under section 9(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (‘the Act’), the Liaison Committee shall report either—

(a) that it has designated a select committee appointed under Standing Order No. 152, or

(b) that it recommends the appointment of a National Policy Statement Committee to consider the proposal.

(1A) The motion for the nomination of members of a National Policy Statement Committee shall be made on behalf of the Liaison Committee by the chair or another member of the committee.

(2) A National Policy Statement Committee—

(a) shall be composed of not fewer than seven nor more than fourteen members, all of whom shall be, at the time of nomination, members of one or more of the following select committees—

Communities and Local Government

Energy and Climate Change

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Transport

Welsh Affairs;

(b) shall have power—

(i) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place within the UK; and

(ii) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee’s order of reference; and

(c) may report from time to time and shall cease to exist when the relevant national policy statement is designated.

(3) A committee designated or appointed to consider a proposal for a national policy statement shall have power, in the course of its proceedings under this order, to invite
Members of the House who are not members of the committee to attend, and, at the discretion of the chair, take part in, its proceedings, but such Members may not move any motion or amendment to any motion or draft report, nor vote nor be counted in the quorum of the committee.

Addition of provision from simplified SO No. 121

Deletion from para (2)(b) because of change to SO No. 123.
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<th>SO No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>152I</td>
<td>National Security Strategy (Joint Committee)</td>
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</table>

except for deletion of para (4) on Members remaining for length of Parliament, because of addition to SO No. 121, and of provisions to sit during adjournment of the House, because of change to SO No. 123.
Backbench Business Committee

(1) There shall be a select committee, called the Backbench Business Committee, to determine the backbench business to be taken in the House and in Westminster Hall on days, or parts of days, allotted for backbench business.

(2) The committee shall consist of a chair and seven other Members, of whom four shall be a quorum.

(3) The chair of the committee shall continue as chair for the remainder of the Session in which that person is elected as chair unless the chair is declared vacant by the Speaker under the provisions of Standing Order No. 122C (Resignation or removal of chairs of select committees) as applied by paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 122D (Election of chair of Backbench Business Committee).

(4) The chair of the committee shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 122D (Election of chair of Backbench Business Committee).

(5) No Member who is a Minister of the Crown or parliamentary private secretary or a principal opposition frontbench spokesperson shall be eligible to be the chair or a member of the committee: the Speaker’s decision shall be final on such matters.

(6) The committee shall have power to invite Government officials to attend all or part of any of its meetings and to hear representations from Members in public.

(7) The Committee shall have power to invite Members of the House who are not members of the Committee and who are of a party not represented on the Committee or of no party to attend its meetings and, at the discretion of the chair, take part in its proceedings, but—

(a) no more than one Member may be so invited to attend in respect of the same meeting;

(b) a Member so invited shall not move any motion or amendment to any motion, vote or be counted in the quorum.

(8) The committee shall determine the backbench business to be taken—

(a) in the House on any day, or any part of any day, allotted under paragraph (4) of Standing Order No. 14 (Arrangement of public business), and
(b) in Westminster Hall, in accordance with paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 10 (Sittings in Westminster Hall),

and shall report its determinations to the House.

Addition of new para (2A) to reflect change to SO No. 121: the new paragraph ensures that the membership of the Backbench Business Committee must be re-established each session, as at present.

Addition of reporting powers, to reflect current practice.

Change to para (8)(b) made by the House on 24 February 2015 consequent on agreement to establish a new Petitions Committee.
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<th>SO No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>152K</td>
<td>Public Bodies: draft orders</td>
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</table>
Presentation of petitions.
153. Every Member offering to present a petition to the House, not being a petition for a private bill, or relating to a private bill before the House, shall confine him or herself to a statement of the parties from whom it comes, the number of signatures attached to it, and the material allegations contained in it, and to reading the prayer of such petition.

Drafting amendment and addition for neutral gender.
Time and manner of presenting petitions
154.—(1) Every petition presented under Standing Order No. 153 (Presentation of petitions) not containing matter in breach of the privileges of this House, and which according to the rules or usual practice of this House can be received, shall be presented after a member of the government Minister of the Crown shall have signified his or her intention to move ‘That this House do now adjourn’, for the purpose of bringing the sitting to a conclusion.

(2) Proceedings under paragraph (1) of this order shall not be interrupted at the moment of interruption.

(3) The Speaker shall not allow any debate, or any Member to speak upon, or in relation to, such petition; but it may be read by the Clerk if required.

Drafting amendments and addition for neutral gender in para (1)
### NO CHANGE TO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>Petition as to present personal grievance</td>
</tr>
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<td>156</td>
<td>Publishing of petitions and ministerial replies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Petitions against imposition of tax

157. Petitions against any resolution or bill imposing a tax or duty for the current service of the year shall be henceforth received, and the usage under which the House has refused to entertain such petitions shall be discontinued.

Obsolete
Presentation of command papers
158. If, during the existence of a Parliament, papers are commanded by Her Majesty to be presented to this House at any time, the delivery of such papers to the Votes and Proceedings Office shall be deemed to be for all purposes the presentation of them to this House.

Presentation of statutory instruments.
159. Where, under any Act of Parliament, a statutory instrument is required to be laid before Parliament, or before this House, the delivery of a copy of such instrument to the Votes and Proceedings Office on any day during the existence of a Parliament shall be deemed to be for all purposes the laying of it before the House:

Provided that nothing in this order shall apply to any statutory instrument being an order which is subject to special parliamentary procedure or to any other instrument which is required to be laid before Parliament, or before this House, for any period before it comes into operation.

Presentation of command papers and statutory instruments
If a paper is commanded by Her Majesty to be presented to this House or a statutory instrument is required under any Act of Parliament to be laid before Parliament, or before this House, the delivery of such paper or instrument to the Journal Office on any day during the existence of a Parliament shall be deemed to be for all purposes the presentation or laying of it before the House:

Provided that nothing in this order shall apply to any statutory instrument being an order which is subject to special parliamentary procedure or to any other instrument which is required to be laid before Parliament, or before this House, for any period before it comes into operation.

Merger of two SOs for clarity
Replacement of confusing 'Votes and Proceedings Office' by 'Journal Office'. No changes to proviso.
NO CHANGE TO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Notification in respect of certain statutory instruments</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Duties of Serjeant at Arms with respect to the public
161.—(1) The Serjeant at Arms attending this House shall take into his custody any member of the public whom he may see, or who may be reported to him to be, in any part of the House or gallery appropriated to the Members of this House, and also any member of the public who, having been admitted into any other part of the House or gallery, shall misconduct him or herself, or shall not withdraw when the public are directed to withdraw, while the House, or any committee of the whole House, is sitting.

(2) The power conferred upon the Serjeant at Arms by paragraph (1) of this order may, if the chair so directs, be exercised in respect of members of the public present at sittings of committees or sittings in Westminster Hall.

Addition for neutral gender in para (1).

Addition to make explicit that SO also applies to Westminster Hall.
**NO CHANGE TO:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>Places to which the public are not admitted</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Motions to sit in private
163.—(1) If at any sitting of the House, or in a committee of the whole House, any Member moves ‘That the House sit in private’ the Speaker or the chair shall forthwith put the question ‘That the House sit in private’, and such question, though opposed, may be decided after the moment of interruption, but such a Motion may be made no more than once in any sitting:

Provided that the Speaker or the chairman may, whenever he or she thinks fit, order the withdrawal of those other than Members or Officers officials from any part of the House.

(2) An order under paragraph (1) of this order shall not apply to members of the House of Lords.

Addition for neutral gender and drafting amendments in para (1)
Annex 2: Proposed renumbering of standing orders relating to public business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE SPEAKER</th>
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<td>1.</td>
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<th>DEPUTY SPEAKERS</th>
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Moved to 103

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MEMBERS (INTRODUCTION AND SEATING)</th>
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## Sittings of the House

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<tr>
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<td>Friday sittings</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>House not to sit on certain Fridays</td>
<td>13. Periodic adjournments <em>(moved from 25)</em></td>
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### Arrangement and Timing of Public and Private Business

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<td>Consideration of draft legislative reform orders etc.</td>
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<td>19.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Time for taking private business</td>
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<td>Time for taking questions</td>
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<td>Amendments to motions to consider specified matters</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Periodic adjournments</td>
<td>Moved to 13</td>
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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS, ETC.**

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**MOTIONS FOR BILLS AND SELECT COMMITTEES**

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**GENERAL DEBATES**

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**MOTIONS FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE**

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<td>RULES OF DEBATE</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>28. Anticipation</td>
<td>36. Closure on proposal of question</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>29. Powers of chair to propose question</td>
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<td>30. Debate on motion for the adjournment of the House</td>
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<td>32. Selection of amendments</td>
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<td>33. Amendments to address in answer to the Queen’s Speech</td>
<td>41. Dilatory motions</td>
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<td>34. Debate on dilatory motion</td>
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<td>35. Dilatory motion in abuse of rules of House</td>
<td>Merged with 41</td>
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<td>36. Closure of debate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>37. Majority for closure or for proposal of question</td>
<td>Merged with 42 and 36</td>
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<td>41. Dilatory motions</td>
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DIVISIONS
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**ORDER IN THE HOUSE**

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<td>Order in debate</td>
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<td>Members suspended, &amp;c., to withdraw from precincts</td>
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<td>Suspension of salary of Members suspended</td>
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<td>Power of the Speaker to adjourn House or suspend sitting</td>
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<td>Time limits on speeches</td>
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**PUBLIC MONEY**

<p>|   | Recommendation from Crown required on application relating to public |   |</p>
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<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Certain proceedings relating to public money</td>
<td>58.</td>
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<td>50.</td>
<td>Procedure upon bills whose main object is to create a charge upon the public revenue</td>
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<td>51.</td>
<td>Ways and means motions</td>
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<td>52.</td>
<td>Money resolutions and ways and means resolutions in connection with bills</td>
<td>61.</td>
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<td>53.</td>
<td>Application of public money standing orders to private bills, &amp;c.</td>
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<td>63. Debate on estimates</td>
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<td>55.</td>
<td>Questions on voting of estimates, &amp;c.</td>
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<td>56.</td>
<td>Consolidated Fund Bills</td>
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**PUBLIC BILLS**

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<td>Amendement on second or third reading</td>
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<td>Amendment on second or third reading</td>
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<td>63.</td>
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<td>64.</td>
<td>Notices of amendments, &amp;c., to bills</td>
<td>74.</td>
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<td>65.</td>
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<td>66.</td>
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<td>67.</td>
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<td>68.</td>
<td>Debate on clause or schedule standing part</td>
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<td>Consideration of bill as amended in committee of whole House</td>
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<td>73.</td>
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<td>Re-committal of bill</td>
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<td>Debate on bill reported from public bill committee</td>
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<td>Privilege (bills brought from the Lords)</td>
<td>86. Financial privilege (bills brought from the Lords)</td>
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**PROGRAMMING OF BILLS**

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<td>Programme orders: conclusion of proceedings in public bill committee or in committee of the whole House</td>
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<td>Programme orders: conclusion of proceedings on consideration or third reading</td>
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<td>97. Programme orders: end of proceedings on consideration of Lords amendments</td>
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<td>83G.</td>
<td>Programme orders: conclusion of proceedings on further messages from the Lords</td>
<td>98. Programme orders: end of proceedings on further messages from the Lords</td>
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<td>Programme orders: supplementary provisions</td>
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| 84A. | Public bill committees | 102. |
| 85.  | Chairs of general committees | 103. Panel of Chairs |
| 86.  | Nomination of general committees | 104. Nomination of legislation committees |
| 87.  | Attendance of law officers and ministers in general committees | 105. Attendance of law officers and ministers in legislation committees |
| 88.  | Meetings of general committees | 106. Meetings of legislation committees |
| 89.  | Procedure in general committees | 107. Procedure in legislation committees |
| 90.  | Second reading committees | 108. |
| 91.  | [Repealed, 1 November 2006] | |
| 92.  | Consideration on report of certain bills by a general committee | 109. Consideration on report of certain bills by a legislation committee |
| 93.  | Scottish Grand Committee (composition and business) | 110. Grand Committees (composition) |
| 94.  | Scottish Grand Committee (questions for oral answer) | 111. Grand Committees (sittings) |
| 95.  | Scottish Grand Committee (short debates) | 112. Grand Committees (questions for oral answer) |
| 96.  | Scottish Grand Committee (ministerial statements) | 113. Grand Committees (short debates) |</p>
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<th>Scottish Grand Committee (delegated legislation)</th>
<th>Scottish Grand Committee (substantive motions for the adjournment)</th>
<th>Scottish Grand Committee (sittings)</th>
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<td>115. Scottish Grand Committee (bills in relation to their principle)</td>
<td>116. Welsh Grand Committee (bills)</td>
<td>117. Northern Ireland Grand Committee (bills in relation to their principle)</td>
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<td>Scottish Grand Committee (substantive motions for the adjournment)</td>
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<td>105.</td>
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<td>Welsh Grand Committee (matters relating exclusively to Wales)</td>
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<td>108.</td>
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<td>109.</td>
<td>Northern Ireland Grand Committee (composition and business)</td>
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<td>110.</td>
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Draft Report (Revision of Standing Orders), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 36 read and agreed to.

Annexes and Summary agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Sixth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

Written evidence from Lord Sewel, Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords (P 89) was ordered to be reported to the House for publishing on the internet.
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